

Hand Sanitizers

Alcohol Gel vs. E3 Foaming

(Isopropyl Alcohol Based) (BZK Based)

- **Who regulates hand sanitizer?**

The Federal Drug Administration (FDA), **not the CDC**, regulates hand sanitizers because hand sanitizers are considered an over the counter (OTC) drug.

- **What is the FDA's current rule on Hand Sanitizers?**

On April 11, 2019 the FDA approved ONLY 3 active ingredients as being safe and effective in consumer hand sanitizers (Check out the FDA ruling [HERE](#)):

- Benzalkonium Chloride (BZK)
- Ethyl Alcohol
- Isopropyl Alcohol

- **Why doesn't the CDC guidelines match the FDA?**

The CDC and FDA are separate agencies with different missions. The CDC's mission is protecting the US from diseases and the spread of those diseases. The FDA is responsible for protecting the public's health, by ensuring the safety of our food supply, cosmetics, and drugs, both prescription and over the counter (OTC). While they both publish guidelines they can be different or even conflicting because of their different missions.

Discussion Points	Hand Sanitizer Types		Explanations
	BZK	Alcohol	
Approved in Schools	YES	Mostly, NO	Ingesting alcohol-based hand sanitizer may be intoxicant.
Approved in Correctional Facilities	YES	Mostly, NO	Most facilities do not prefer alcohol-based products on site.
Approved for Restaurants, Retail & Entertainment	YES	YES	Most business facilities
Efficacy Beyond 15 Seconds	YES	NO	E3 Foaming Hand Sanitizer (BZK) extends the efficacy period leading to reduction of more harmful organisms.
Skin Care - Drying, Cracking, Hand Dermatitis	NO	See Explanation	Some alcohol-based hand sanitizers, especially home remedies/ non-FDA approved products, may cause skin issues. See if product has hydration properties, such as Hand Sanitizer Gel-EDC.
Flammable	NO	YES	Highly flammable considered a Class 1 substance (flash point 100 ° F) - See CDC Fire Safety
Hazardous Material Class	NO	YES	May create shipping issues and increase costs.

hand care

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