



FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

How much do I use?

To ensure full decontamination it is important to cover all areas of the hand, you will learn from experience how much Spirigel is required to fully cover your hands.

Spirigel has been tested to EN1500 using 3ml, so this would be our recommendation. Spirigel is available with an integral 1ml pump, so you should apply 3 shots.

When do I use it?

You should decontaminate your hands in the following circumstances:

- ▲ Before touching a patient
- ▲ Before cleaning/aseptic procedures
- ▲ After body fluid exposure/risk
- ▲ After touching a patient
- ▲ After touching patient surroundings

Does it kill MRSA?

Spirigel is effective against a broad range of gram positive and gram negative bacteria, including *Staphylococcus aureus* (hence MRSA), *Pseudomonas aeruginosa*, *Escherichia coli*, *Enterococcus hirae*. Spirigel conforms to EN 12054 at 30 seconds reducing the standard bacterial organisms by greater than 99.999% (5 log).

When should Spirigel not be used?

Spirigel and all other alcohol decontaminants do not remove dirt or soiling from your hands. When your hands are visibly dirty or soiled it is important you wash your hands with soap and water.

Will it matter if my hands are wet when I apply Spirigel?

Yes, having wet hands dilutes the solution thus decreasing its effectiveness. The product must be applied to dry hands.

How many times can I use it before I have to wash my hands?

The need to hand wash is not decided by how many times you have used Spirigel but the nature of the tasks since your last hand wash. If your hands are visibly soiled you must wash your hands.

Spirigel contains a gelling agent and emollients to make it as acceptable to the user as possible. You may find after a number of applications you feel a build up of gel and emollients on your skin. At this point we would recommend a hand wash. When you begin to feel this build up varies from person to person as everyone's skin is different. Whether you use gloves and the time between applications will also have an effect.

Will Spirigel damage my hands?

Spirigel is a very simple formulation, without the extra ingredients often found in hand and skin products. There are added emollient ingredients in the formulation to moisturise the skin. We would recommend you always use a moisturising product to replenish the skins moisture at the end of your shift. Mantle is ideal to use alongside Spirigel and hand washing products.

Can I bring in my own moisturising cream from home?

No, many hand creams inactivate the components in Spirigel and other Alcohol Based Hand Rubs (ABHRs). Endure 501 is compatible with Spirigel and is suitable for use in the health care environment.

Can Spirigel bottles be refilled?

No, because the outside of the ABHR bottles, and the pump often become contaminated so they should generally be discarded and not re-used.

Is Spirigel safe to use in pregnancy?

The use of Spirigel on the hands during pregnancy is considered safe. The alcohol present in the formulation rapidly evaporates, and studies have shown that alcohol applied to the skin is poorly absorbed into the blood stream. The expectant mother would therefore not be exposed to unsafe levels of alcohol through absorption of the product across the skin.

Is Spirigel a fire hazard?

As Spirigel is an alcohol based product it is classified as highly flammable, so the required precautions should be taken.

In practice, the only way a fire could be started due to alcohol gel is if there is a large build up of vapour in the vicinity of the product. By using Spirigel in the dispenser units provided, and insuring that they are not installed over electrical receptacles or near to other sources of ignition, there should be no adverse fire risk.

What happens if someone drinks Spirigel?

Spirigel has an unpalatable taste but in the unlikely event that someone does drink it, please follow the advice from the Material Safety Data Sheet.

What happens if I splash Spirigel on my clothing?

If a small amount of Spirigel splashes onto your clothing wipe off the excess as soon as possible. If possible, sponge off the product with water before allowing Spirigel time to dry onto the fabric. Launder or dry clean your clothes as normal.

What happens if Spirigel splashes onto floors or walls?

If a small amount of Spirigel splashes onto the floor immediately wipe off the excess as soon as possible. Sponge off the product with water before allowing Spirigel time to dry. If a whitish gel residue remains on the floor a warm detergent solution will remove this.

Can Spirigel be used with latex gloves?

Spirigel is a suitable hand antiseptic to use in conjunction with synthetic latex or rubber gloves. Correct procedure requires that Spirigel be allowed to completely dry prior to gloving. Spirigel contains no mineral oil components which may degrade latex or rubber gloves.

I am a practising Muslim. Can I use Spirigel?

Spirigel is listed by the Halal Certification Authority - Australia as acceptable for external use.