

T2 Six Key Limitations of Hand Sanitizers

1. Hand sanitizers are generally inferior to hand washing. The best way to reduce the number of microbes in the majority of settings is washing hands with soap and water. If soap and running water are not available, a hand sanitizer with at least 60% alcohol is recommended.
2. Hand sanitizers cannot eliminate all types of microbes, though they can swiftly reduce numbers of certain microbes. Alcohol-based hand sanitizer does not kill *Clostridium difficile* (*C. difficile*).
3. Hand sanitizers may not remove harmful chemicals such as heavy metals and pesticides.
4. Hand sanitizers may not be as effective in the presence of visible dirt or grease on hands.
5. Alcohol poisoning can occur from swallowing sanitizer.
6. Alcohol poisoning can occur from excessive skin absorption in newborns.

Adapted from: CDC. Show Me the Science-When & How to Use Hand Sanitizer.

www.cdc.gov/handwashing/show-me-the-science-hand-sanitizer.html

