

# L+R disinfect

## Environmentally conscious use and proper disposal.



Environmental awareness and sustainability are increasingly coming into focus in healthcare facilities. According to a study by the German Hospital Association (Deutsche Krankenhausgesellschaft e.V.), 71% of the hospitals surveyed include the topic of climate protection in their so-called climate change adaptation strategy. Procurement products are an important factor here - not only in terms of their CO<sub>2</sub> balance sheet during production, but also in consumption, supply and disposal.

Plastic packaging of many different products accounts for a total of 8% of the waste generated in German hospitals.<sup>1</sup> We at Lohmann & Rauscher are certified according to DIN ISO 14001 – an internationally valid standard for process-based environmental management designed to reduce ecological risks while conserving resources. An important factor in the environmental process is not only consumption but also the disposal of packaging. In this factsheet, we have compiled information for you on how to use our disinfectants and how to dispose of their packaging correctly.

### 1. Disinfectants: use under sustainability aspects

Protection against infection is a top priority in the healthcare sector and the necessary use of disinfectants within the implementation of hygiene regulations and recommendations is therefore completely indisputable. The storage and use duration of our L+R disinfect products (and thus also their certified effectiveness) depends to a large extent on the selected packaging being stable and compatible with the disinfectants it contains. So-called stability data of unopened containers or after opening of

containers are therefore collected by us in a standardised manner and updated at regular intervals. The use of these products under sustainability aspects therefore includes in particular the correct dosage and handling of the products – e.g. that the disinfection procedure is intended for the intended purpose and that the execution of the disinfection procedure is appropriate. According to the *Commission for Hospital Hygiene and Infection Prevention (KRINKO)*, it should be considered that “... a product with the broadest spectrum of activity is not to

# L+R disinfect

## Environmentally conscious use and proper disposal.

be used in every case without at the same time considering the risks, but the product or concentration sufficiently effective for the intended use is to be selected.”<sup>2</sup>

The Commission therefore recommends “...weighing up the spectrum of activity, efficacy, material compatibility and risks to humans and the environment when selecting surface disinfectants (Cat. IB)”.<sup>2</sup>

A precise examination of the actually required spectrum of effect in different risk areas of a facility is therefore an important contribution also to environmental protection.

### 2. Secure closure of the opened package

To guarantee the usability of, for example, opened wipe products up to the last wipe, it is essential to close the package after each application. On the one hand, this ensures the effectiveness of the products, and on the other hand, it prevents premature discarding of possibly dried-out products - and thus unnecessary waste.

If dried-out wipes have to be disposed of, they belong in the residual waste.

### 3. Disposal of disinfectant packaging

In principle, disinfectants should be used up completely to prevent unnecessary disposal. This means, for example, that when preparing ready-to-use solutions, care should be taken to ensure that the quantity prepared corresponds to the required consumption so that the surplus quantity to be disposed of is as small as possible. Long shelf life of the unopened package and after

opening of safely resealable ready-to-use products can be a relevant advantage from this point of view.

If product residues nevertheless remain in a package, the manufacturer’s instructions for risk assessment and appropriate disposal must be observed. These can be found in section 13 of the safety data sheet of each L&R disinfectant.

Our empty disinfectant packaging is made of plastic and can be recycled. For a sorted disposal and thus a better recycling rate, it makes sense to separate caps and pumps from empty plastic bottles.

### Elemento of the L&R DIN ISO Certification 14001

- Annual surveillance audits
- Re-certification every 3 years
- Focused improvement process of environmental performance
- Sustainable improvement in the areas of:
  - ◆ Mobility
  - ◆ Electricity consumption
  - ◆ Heating energy
  - ◆ Resource consumption
  - ◆ Waste
  - ◆ CO<sub>2</sub> emissions

Find out more about our disinfection products here:

<https://www.lohmann-rauscher.com/en/products/disinfection/>



Use surface disinfectants with care. Always read the label and product information before use.

<sup>1</sup> Deutsches Krankenhausinstitut e. V.: Klimaschutz in deutschen Krankenhäusern: Status quo, Maßnahmen und Investitionskosten. Auswertung klima- und energierelevanter Daten deutscher Krankenhäuser. Düsseldorf Juni 2022

<sup>2</sup> Anforderungen an die Hygiene bei der Reinigung und Desinfektion von Flächen: Empfehlung der Kommission für Krankenhaushygiene und Infektionsprävention (KRINKO) beim Robert Koch-Institut. Bundesgesundheitsblatt Gesundheitsforschung Gesundheitsschutz. 2022 Oct;65(10):1074-1115