

# The Connection™

## Marvin's View

August 7, 2007

### GERMICIDAL UPDATE

Following our earlier Connection on Germicidal Detergents, a number of questions arose from readers. We've asked Hal Temkin to share his response on a few that might be of interest.

**Question:** You said to make sure the product you use to try to prevent transmission of MRSA is an EPA Registered Hospital Grade Germicide and has listed effectiveness against MRSA. How long has PortionPac had this level of registration?

**Hal:** PortionPac has had a "hospital grade" EPA Registration on all our Germicidal Detergents since 1964. Nevertheless, three years ago it became apparent that new infectious concerns: (MRSA (Methicillin Resistant Staphylococcus Aureus), HBV (Hepatitis B), HCV (Hepatitis C) and VRE (Vancomycin Resistant Enterococcus) were a growing risk and, like many in our industry, we reformulated our germicide to meet this new need.

**Question:** Is reformulating a difficult process?

**Hal:** Changing a formulation brings new challenges in balancing concerns for performance, safety, health and the environment. The formulation development, independent laboratory testing and registration with EPA and in all 50 states is a long, complicated and expensive process. And since PortionPac has always opted on the side of safety - for our factory staff and the janitors and housekeepers who use the germicide every day - this process took on added concern. The potentially harmful ingredient in this type of formulation is the amount of "active germicidal ingredient" needed to destroy the required organisms. Our goal was to make the product as mild as possible while still meeting the new "kill factor" objectives and to continue to help our customers use the product correctly.

**Question:** I use a competitive product and it contains much more quat than PortionPac. Why do you have less germicidal strength than some of these products?

**Hal:** While these new infectious concerns were important, there is no need for "overkill" and for safety reasons we have always used the lowest possible amount of active ingredient that still allows the product to maintain the highest EPA registration.

**Question:** Why is the new formulation not as concentrated as your old germicide?

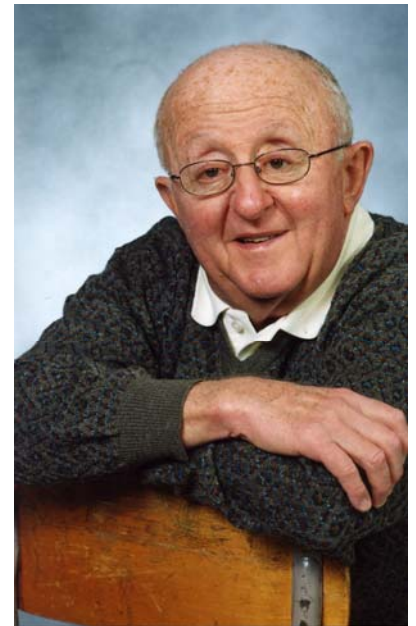
**Hal:** In order to limit the amount of active ingredient and keep both the concentrate and the use-dilution as safe as possible, we changed the dilution ratio from one-half ounce of concentrate to a gallon of water to one-ounce of concentrate to a gallon of water. The concentrate is now less concentrated by 50% which increases the safety level of the concentrate in the Pac.

**Question:** Should all accounts use Germicidal Detergents?

**Hal:** While there is some debate about the use of germicidal cleaners at all, the U.S. Centers for Disease Control (CDC) continues to suggest that hospital patient rooms, OR and ICU environmental surfaces be cleaned with an EPA Registered Germicidal Detergent. Our experience is that most users who deal with close personal contact - like prisons, nursing homes and schools - usually want this same level of protection and cleaning. Other facilities often decide to use the Germicide in their washrooms and high touch surface cleaning programs.

**Question:** Where do you recommend Germicidal Detergents should be used?

**Hal:** Germicidal detergents can be used on any hard surface - floors, walls, table tops, etc. To help limit transmission of MRSA and other antibiotic resistant organisms, it is most important to use on frequently touched surfaces such as door knobs, push plates, hand railings, bed railings, light switches and the wall area around the toilet, etc. Above all, everyone should make it a habit to wash their hands with plain soap and water frequently and to avoid touching their mouth, nose, and eyes.



Hal Temkin

**Question:** Germicidal Detergents have a history of being hard on floor finish- usually wearing down the finish in a relatively short time. Is that also true of the new formulation?

**Hal:** A major improvement is that this new formulation is neutral on the pH scale which limits wear on the surface it is cleaning. Essentially, it does not attack the finish and thus the floor looks better, lasts longer and the cleaning and refinishing process has much less environmental impact. Picking the right floor finish is another key and perhaps we should discuss that in another Connection.

**Question:** You have consistently emphasized the "safety" of the PortionPac system. Can you elaborate on that?

**Hal:** Helping housekeeping workers use all detergents accurately is really the heart and soul of the PortionPac System. Because our customers understand that emphasizing education, control and easy, uncomplicated use is really important, they have very few problems. Our portion control packaging gives housekeeping workers a sensible system to mix and use these products accurately, safely and productively.

**Question:** Anything else new?

**Hal:** Well, one thing we wanted to have for a long time is a Germicide in a Pac-per-Quart size. By adding the contents of one Pac of the new No. 232 to the spray bottle, Janitors and Housekeepers have an easy and inexpensive way to keep their spray application bottle filled and ready for this important cleaning. This size is something that many customers have been requesting for years. It completes our very effective Pac-per-Quart System and dramatically cuts the cost of ready-to-use products and aerosols.

Well, we hope this was of value. Proper use of Germicides is extremely important. If you have additional questions or suggestions please email me at [hmklein@portionpaccorp.com](mailto:hmklein@portionpaccorp.com).

**PortionPac Chemical Corporation**

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