

Disinfecting Outdoor-Use Spaces

Key Questions

Summary

Due to the global pandemic caused by Covid-19, people view the world differently. We are practicing more frequent hand washing, social distancing, indoor cleaning and even refraining from shaking hands. Hygiene has come to the forefront of all of our minds. In addition to these personal changes, more clients are asking for their frequently used outdoor spaces to be disinfected as well.

In response, The Bartlett Tree Research Laboratories researched the list of Defra registered disinfectants and European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control (ECDC) guidelines to find a disinfectant that was the best fit for the outdoor environment. With an understanding of the science of active ingredients and other compounds, our researchers identified and tested products that would disinfect a wide range of pathogens on outdoor hardscapes, and instructed our qualified applicators on how to correctly perform this service. Now, with our help, you can have the peace of mind of knowing that a disinfectant was correctly applied to your outdoor living space.



What is a disinfectant?

A disinfectant is an antimicrobial pesticide used to control, prevent, or destroy harmful microorganisms on inanimate objects or surfaces.

How do disinfectants work?

A disinfectant is not a cleaner. Disinfectants are products that kill or mitigate microbes by contacting them on the surface. They are most effective if the surfaces are free from significant organic material (e.g. soil, leaf litter, etc.) prior to application. Disinfectants kill microbes that are present within a few minutes of the time of the application, but provide little or no protection from future microbial agents. The disinfectant process creates a disinfected start on a surface, making it easier to manage. Continued applications may be necessary depending on client needs and usage.

Are there safety or environmental concerns with disinfectants?

While the Bartlett researchers have selected the best available disinfectants for outdoor use, all disinfectants are corrosive materials. In order to destroy a wide range of microorganisms, these products will be toxic to some plants, bees and aquatic life. Only trained professionals should apply disinfectants to outdoor areas, using the best available equipment, gear and training methods. As with all pesticide products, people and pets should remain off all treated areas until the area has dried.



Founded in 1927, The Bartlett Tree Research Laboratories is the research wing of Bartlett Tree Experts. Scientists here develop guidelines for all of the Company's services. The Lab also houses a state-of-the-art plant diagnostic clinic and provides vital technical support to Bartlett arborists and field staff for the benefit of our clients.