

Sterilisation & Disinfection

Biology

The methods, what each kills, and where each is used.

Method against what survives it.

Method	Kills	Used for
Autoclave, 121°C	Everything, including spores	Instruments, media, waste
Dry heat oven	Everything, slower	Glassware
Filtration 0.22 µm	Bacteria, not viruses	Heat-sensitive liquids
UV	Surface organisms	Cabinets, water
Alcohol 70%	Most vegetative cells	Skin, surfaces
Bleach	Most, including spores at strength	Surfaces, spills

70% alcohol works better than 100%: some water is needed for it to penetrate the cell and denature proteins.