



# SAFETY NOTICE

## Proper Hand Sanitizer Use

RISK MANAGEMENT & SAFETY

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**RMS Contact:** Erin Hafner, ehafner@nd.edu

**Contact RMS:**

**Tel: 1-5037**

### PROPER USE AND STORAGE OF HAND SANITIZER

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) recommends washing hands with soap and water whenever possible because handwashing reduces the amounts of all types of germs and chemicals on hands. But if soap and water are not available, using a hand sanitizer with at least 60% alcohol can help you avoid getting sick and spreading germs to others.

#### **Proper use of hand sanitizer is important.**

When using hand sanitizer, apply the product to the palm of one hand. Be sure to read the label to learn the correct amount. Rub the product all over the surfaces of both hands for 30 seconds or until your hands are dry. Ensure sanitizer has dried on your hands prior to touching anything. Never use hand sanitizer near a heat source or open flame.

#### **Hand sanitizers may not be as effective when hands are visibly dirty or greasy.**

Hands may become very greasy or soiled after people handle food, play sports, or work in the garden. When hands are heavily soiled or greasy, hand sanitizers may not work well. Handwashing with soap and water is recommended in such circumstances.

#### **Ensure fire safety when alcohol based hand sanitizer (ABHS) is used.**

ABHS contains ethyl alcohol, which readily evaporates at room temperature into an ignitable vapor, and is considered a flammable liquid. Although the incidence of fires related to ABHS is very low, it is vital that ABHS is stored safely and that bulk dispensers are installed and maintained correctly. Remember to store flammable liquids in a safe manner, reduce sources of ignition, and establish methods for quick exits in case of fire.

More information can be found at the [Centers for Disease Control and Prevention](#) and [Fire Safety and Alcohol-Based Hand Sanitizer](#).

**Feel free to distribute this notice as appropriate.**

All safety communications can be found at <https://riskmanagement.nd.edu/communication/safety-communication/>

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