

Microbiology Learning Objectives C7  
The Control of Microbial Growth

1. Define the following terms: sterilization, disinfection, sanitization, degerming, antiseptics, biocide, germicide, bacteriostasis, and asepsis.
2. Describe the patterns of microbial death.
3. Would a chemical microbial control agent that affected plasma membranes affect humans?
4. Compare the effectiveness of moist heat (boiling, autoclaving, pasteurization) and dry heat to control microbial growth.
5. How do filtration, low temperatures, high pressures, desiccation, and osmotic pressure suppress microbial growth?
6. If you wanted to disinfect a surface contaminated by vomit and a surface contaminated by a sneeze, why would your choice of disinfectant make a difference?
7. Why is alcohol effective against some viruses and not others?
8. What are the characteristics of a surface-active agent?
9. What chemical disinfectants can be considered sporicides?
10. What chemical are used to sterilize?
11. Why are gram-negative bacteria more resistant to chemical biocides than gram-positive bacteria?