



‘ALCOHOL FREE’- WHAT DOES IT MEAN?

There are many alcohols in the world and there are a lot of cleaners and disinfectants labelled as ‘alcohol free’. However when you look at the ingredient list you may notice that it contains an ingredient that would be taken as an alcohol, i.e. ending in the letters ‘ol’.

CONCERNS REGARDING ALCOHOL

People are often concerned about products containing alcohol because of the effect they can have on skin and surfaces over prolonged periods of time. However there are many alcohols that have no detrimental effect and only act as a preservative or fragrance.

THEN WHAT DOES ‘ALCOHOL FREE’ MEAN?

It is taken, in general, that companies can label a product as ‘alcohol free’ if the product does not contain Ethyl Alcohol, Methyl Alcohol or Isopropyl Alcohol, i.e. lower molecular weight alcohols.

The term alcohol is a classification of an ingredient based on its chemical structure. It is almost impossible not to come into contact with an alcohol in one form or another, e.g even a bottle of Orange Juice can contain 0.5% alcohol.

THE CLINELL RANGE

The Clinell Universal Range, Clinell Antibacterial Hand Wipes, Clinell Disinfectant Spray and Clinell Hand and Surface Sanitser contain the following alcohols which combined account for less than 0.1% of the formula.

- Phenoxyethanol: An organic chemical compound and glycol ether often used in dermatological products such as skin creams and sunscreen and has antibacterial properties.
- Phenethyl Alcohol: A liquid that occurs widely in nature and is found in a variety of essential oils and is used as a preservative in many products.

These are not considered as lower molecular weight alcohols and therefore the products containing these alcohols would be considered ‘alcohol free’ under the definition above.