

PRESS RELEASE

Chemical body urges discretion in use of disinfectants

Alkali Manufacturers Association of India (AMAI) has underlined the need to exercise caution while using disinfection chemicals directly on human beings. The statement from AMAI has come in the wake of chemicals like sodium hypochlorite solution and hydrogen peroxide being used for spraying on human beings in the fight against Covid-19.

AMAI is the representative body of the entire alkali industry in India that produces sodium hypochlorite, chlorine, bleaching solution/powder, etc. used for disinfection.

Sodium hypochlorite is a strong disinfectant to be used in recommended dilution to disinfect surfaces and objects that are contaminated or disinfected. Contact with skin can cause itching and irritation leading to skin problems. Similarly, hydrogen peroxide is a strong bleaching agent and its use should be restricted to objects and surfaces. The use of these chemicals on the face is even more harmful with chances of ingress into eyes, nostrils and mouth, causing health issues, AMAI has stated.

“There have been recent reports in the media on chemicals like sodium hypochlorite solution and hydrogen peroxide being used for disinfection on human beings. In fact, there are also instances of special chambers being erected that spray a mist of disinfectant chemicals on people passing or walking through them. We are liaising with the Government and civic bodies for safe usage of these disinfectants”, said Mr Jayantibhai Patel, President AMAI.

During these challenging times, members of AMAI have stepped up their efforts to maintain adequate supply of disinfection chemicals to supplement the efforts of the government in the fight against the COVID-19 pandemic. However, chemicals such as sodium hypochlorite, chlorine, hydrogen peroxide and bleach solutions should be handled with utmost care, avoiding skin contact. In case of contact with skin, the exposed part should be thoroughly washed with a running stream of water, states AMAI.

For disinfecting/cleaning hands, alcohol-based sanitisers are recommended. Any other part of the body should be cleaned using ordinary soap and water only, AMAI has recommended.

WHO recommends use of disinfection chemicals such as sodium hypochlorite, chlorine, bleach solution (in recommended dilution) for disinfecting surfaces and objects. To maintain personal hygiene, WHO also recommends frequent washing of hands with soap and water.

(ends)

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