



Division of Environmental Health

Terry L. Pierce, Director

Environmental Health Services Section
Bart Campbell, Section Chief

State of North Carolina
Michael F. Easley, Governor

Department of Environment and
Natural Resources
William G. Ross, Secretary

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TO: Rick Wagoner, Specialty Programs Section Chief
Wake County Department of Environmental Services

FROM: Kimly Blount, Field Supervisor
Children's Environmental Health Branch

THROUGH: Ed Norman, Environmental Program Supervisor
Children's Environmental Health Branch

SUBJECT: Sanitizing Wipes and Disinfecting Wipes

Question: Should children use sanitizing and disinfecting wipes?

Answer: No.

Discussion:

In addition to the usual warning, "keep out of reach of children," most of the sanitizing and disinfecting wipes on the market also caution the consumer that these wipes may cause minor skin and eye irritation. Also, the consumer is advised to wash their hands thoroughly with soap and water after use and before eating or drinking and before chewing gum or tobacco.

There are Material Safety Data Sheets (MSDS) available online for Clorox and Lysol brands. A telephone call to the Consumer Department of the Clorox Company did not yield much more information than what is listed on the MSDS. When asked to define "children," they declined. According to the representative, children were not expected to use the wipes. Also, these products should not be used as baby wipes.

