When & How to Use Hand Sanitizer

The CDC recommends washing hands with soap and water whenever possible because handwashing reduces the number of germs and chemicals on hands. If soap and water are not available, use a hand sanitizer with at least 60% alcohol to help avoid getting sick and spreading germs to others.

Alcohol-based hand sanitizers can quickly reduce the number of microbes on hands in some situations, but sanitizers do not eliminate all types of germs.

Here are some hints and tips on using hand sanitizer:

* If used correctly, it can inactivate germs.
* If alcohol content is less than 60%, it may not be effective.
* Need to use a large volume and allow it to dry to be effective. Read the label for directions.
* It may not work effectively if hands are visibly soiled, contaminated with chemicals or pesticides, oily, or greasy.
  + If hands are visibly soiled, contaminated with chemicals or pesticides, oily or greasy, wash them before using sanitizer.
* Do not ingest hand sanitizer. It can be poisonous and it is not an effective method to combat the COVID-19 virus.
* Store hand sanitizer away from children and animals on the farm.

Applying the Hand Sanitizer:

* Wash hands with soap and water before applying the sanitizer, where possible.
* Following the directions on the sanitizer label, add sanitizer to the palm of one hand, and then rub the product all over both hands and allow to air dry. Do not rub off.

Reference:

<https://www.cdc.gov/handwashing/show-me-the-science-hand-sanitizer.html>