

# **EcoHydra Product Glossary**

## **Anionic**

Describes a substance that has negatively charged ions, which affects the way it reacts with other substances.

## **Antimicrobial**

Describes an agent that kills micro-organisms, which could include some or all of bacteria, viruses, fungi, moulds and yeasts. The term is more general than “antibacterial”, which only refers to the ability to kill bacteria.

## **Cationic**

Describes a substance that has positively charged ions, which affects the way it reacts with other substances.

## **Broad Spectrum**

Used to describe antibiotics and antiseptics that kill a wide range of micro-organisms, which may include some or all of bacteria, viruses, fungi, moulds and yeasts.

## **FDA**

Food and Drugs Administration – an arm of the US Federal Government.

## **Gram-negative**

A classification of bacteria based on Gram’s method. All Gram-negative bacteria have similar cell walls, a feature that helps to dictate which antibiotics and antiseptics they are susceptible to.

## **Gram-positive**

A classification of bacteria based on Gram’s method. All Gram-positive bacteria have similar cell walls, a feature that helps to dictate which antibiotics and antiseptics they are susceptible to.

## **Gram’s method**

A technique used to classify bacteria according to their ability to lose or retain the colour of a violet stain, applied within the framework of an established test procedure. The retention or loss of stain indicates a particular cell-wall structure and distinguishes two types of bacteria: Gram-positive and Gram-negative.

## **Lipids**

Organic compounds that are insoluble in water but soluble in organic solvents, and are oily to the touch (e.g. fats, oils and waxes). Together with carbohydrates and proteins, they constitute the principal structural material of living cells.

**MRSA**

Methicillin Resistant Staphylococcus Aureus. Strains of Staphylococcus Aureus that are resistant to the antibiotic Methicillin.

**MSSA**

Methicillin Susceptible Staphylococcus Aureus. Those strains of Staphylococcus Aureus for which infections can be treated by the antibiotic Methicillin.

**pH level**

A measure of acidity or alkalinity.

**Quaternary Ammonium Compounds**

Derivatives of ammonium compounds in which the hydrogen atoms have been replaced with hydrocarbyl groups (hydrocarbons with a hydrogen atom removed). They are important especially as surfactants, disinfectants and drugs. Also called "Quats".

**Surfactant**

An agent that reduces the surface tension of liquids so that the liquid spreads out, rather than collecting in droplets. In the context of hand sanitisation, surfactants enable liquids to be absorbed by the skin.

**Systemic**

Relating to the human body generally. For example systemic toxicity refers to toxicity that spreads throughout the body, as opposed to local toxicity.

**Topical**

Describes a medicinal or antiseptic agent that is intended to be applied to the surface of the skin.