



Mixing and Using Bleach Solutions for ROUTINE Disinfection

WHEN TO USE THE BLEACH SOLUTION

- Use the bleach solution below to disinfect hard, non-porous surfaces (door knobs, sink fixtures, hand railings, bathroom walls, etc.) after cleaning the surface of visible dirt with soap and water.

Chlorine bleach may permanently stain some surfaces. Follow your supervisor's instructions on what surfaces to disinfect with chlorine bleach.

WHEN NOT TO USE THESE GUIDELINES

- Do **not** use these guidelines for food preparation surfaces/ equipment and tableware/utensils.
- Do **not** clean and disinfect surfaces contaminated with vomit, feces, or other bodily fluids following these procedures. Special decontamination training, disinfecting solutions, and procedures are required for cleaning up vomit, feces, or other bodily fluids.

THINK SAFETY

The high concentration of chlorine bleach in disinfectant solutions is toxic and can be harmful to eyes, skin, and airways.

- Always wear a surgical mask, eye protection/face shields, gloves, and apron/disposable gown while mixing and applying disinfectant solutions.**
- Follow the Safety Data Sheet (SDS) for chlorine bleach.
- Prepare, use, and store the bleach disinfectant solution in a well-ventilated area.
- Store bleach and other cleaning products in their original containers in a locked cabinet or closet.

PREPARING THE DISINFECTING SOLUTION

- Do not use expired, scented or splashless bleach.
- Add the amount of bleach to water according to the Bleach Guidance Table.
- Add bleach to room-temperature water, not water to bleach.
- Label all bottles of bleach solution with the contents, ratio of bleach to water, and date it was mixed.
- Use the chlorine bleach solution within 24 hours after preparation and store away from sunlight to avoid decomposition.
- Use a new unopened bottle of bleach at least every 30 days for preparing disinfectant solutions.

DISINFECTION STEPS

- Think “**C**” before “**D**”. “**Clean**” comes before “**Disinfect**”. Clean first. Clean the surface with general cleaner or detergent to remove any visible dirt. Germs may hide under dirty surfaces.
- Rinse with clean water and dry with paper towels. Disinfect next. Apply the bleach and water solution to the surface and **allow the solution to remain on the surface for five minutes**.
- Rinse thoroughly with clean water and air dry.

Bleach Guidance (5-6%)* for Routine Disinfection of All Hard, Non-Porous Surfaces

NOT for Use on Food-Contact Surfaces

This table also applies during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Purpose	PPM	Dilution	Contact Time	Final Step after Disinfection
Disinfection	2400	¾ cup chlorine bleach/1 gallon water OR 1 tbsp bleach/1 gallon water	5 minutes	Rinse thoroughly then air dry

*For concentrated chlorine bleach (8.25%), use ½ c bleach/1 gallon water or 2 tsp bleach/ 1 quart water.

Not for use on food- contact surfaces.

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