

Using Bleach to Disinfect for COVID-19

Recipe for Bleach Solution to Disinfect against COVID-19.

Concentration of Sodium Hypochlorite (active ingredient in bleach)	Amount of Bleach	Amount of Water
5% - 9% Do not use a product not in this range or that does not list the concentration	5 Tablespoons <i>(1/3 cup of bleach)</i>	1 gallon
	4 teaspoons	1 quart <i>(32 fl oz spray bottle)</i>
	2 teaspoons	½ quart <i>(16 fl oz spray bottle)</i>



Make solution daily

Diluted bleach solutions start becoming less effective after 24 hours!



Preclean with soap and water

Cleaning removes dirt and grime so germs can't hide from the bleach!



Keep wet for contact time.

Use a timer!

Keep surface visibly wet with solution for the time listed on the label. If not listed, keep wet for at least 1 minute.



Bleach can be dangerous if not used properly!

For questions, call the poison control hotline at (800)-222-1222. Seek medical attention immediately if you have been exposed and have any symptoms.

Checklist for Safe Use

- Always follow all label instructions.
- Wear kitchen gloves, goggles, and an apron or other protective clothing.
- Avoid contact with skin or eyes.
- Ventilate to reduce bleach fumes.
- Never mix bleach with other products.
- Wash hands after removing gloves.
- Clearly label containers and store in cool, dry place, away from food and out of reach of children and pets.
- Do not use near children or people with asthma or other respiratory conditions.

Daily Disinfecting Log*

Areas	How Often?	Comments	Done?
High touch surfaces <i>(not in play areas)</i> 	Daily or more frequently based on use. Whenever soiled with bodily fluids,	Examples: Door and cabinet handles, light switches, sign in stations, remote controls.	
Changing tables and potty chairs 	After each use.	If using disposable table liners between diaper changes, disinfect tables daily and when soiled.	
Bathrooms and Diapering Areas 	At least daily and whenever soiled with bodily fluids.	Includes countertops, sinks and faucets, floors, toilets, and diaper pails.	

Bleach solution made at _____ am / pm today by _____.

*The Disinfecting Log is based off best practice recommendations from Center for Disease Control and Prevention's Guidance for Child Care Programs that remain open during COVID-19.

Contact Information

Texas Choose Safe Places Program

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1-888-681-0927

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dshs.texas.gov/safesiting

How is disinfecting with bleach during the pandemic different than what I was doing before?

Prior to the pandemic, you used a sanitizing bleach solution on these surfaces. This disinfecting solution is more concentrated. Disinfecting instructions may also require a longer contact time. Items that come into contact with food, toys, and surfaces and items they may be mouthed by young children should still be sanitized rather than disinfected.

What does "more frequently based on use" mean?

How often you need to disinfect may differ from day to day depending on how often an item is touched. There is no guidance that can determine this increased frequency. You should use your best judgement.

Can I use this solution for cleaning bodily fluids?

Yes. This concentration is appropriate for disinfecting surfaces soiled by bodily fluids.