

How to Make Your Own Disinfectant Bleach Solution

Did You Know: Bleach has a shelf-life between 6-9 months. It is important to test the potency of your disinfecting and sanitizing solution because of this.

Bleach Sanitizing and Disinfecting Solution Preparation Instructions

This is not a substitute for official rules and regulations; this document is only to assist you with solution preparation. Please contact your local health authority for official rules and regulations.

“Household bleach” means bleach sold in concentrations that are intended for household use, and not industrial applications. Household bleach is sold in retail stores at strengths of 5.25% sodium hypochlorite (regular strength bleach) solution and 6.00% sodium hypochlorite (ultra-strength bleach) solution.

Bleach to Water Mixing Ratio

Concentration (%) of sodium hypochlorite can be found on the bleach container label

APPLICATION	5.25 % Sodium hypochlorite			Recommended Labeling
	Bleach Per Gallon of Water	Bleach Per Quart of Water	Bleach (Free Chlorine) Concentration	
Disinfecting Strength - for use in washrooms, change tables in childcare, during outbreaks of respiratory diseases or vomiting and diarrhea	1/3 Cup	4 Teaspoon	1000-1200 ppm	High Level Disinfectant – Hard Surfaces
Disinfecting Strength - For use on non-critical medical or personal service instruments	1/4 Cup	1 Tablespoon	500-800 ppm	Disinfectant – Floors and Surfaces
Sanitizing Strength - Food contact surfaces, areas not contaminated with bodily secretions/excretions	1 Tablespoon	3/4 Teaspoon	50-200 ppm	Sanitizer – For Food Contact Surfaces and Toys
APPLICATION	6.00 % Sodium hypochlorite			Recommended Labeling
	Bleach Per Gallon of Water	Bleach Per Quart of Water	Bleach (Free Chlorine) Concentration	
Disinfecting Strength - for use in washrooms, change tables in childcare, during outbreaks of respiratory diseases or vomiting and diarrhea	1/3 Cup	Teaspoon	1000-1200 ppm	High Level Disinfectant – Hard Surfaces
Disinfecting Strength - For use on non-critical medical or personal service instruments	3 ½ Tablespoons	2 ½ Teaspoons	500-800 ppm	Disinfectant – Floors and Bodily Fluids
Sanitizing Strength - Food contact surfaces, areas not contaminated with bodily secretions/excretions	2 ½ Teaspoons	1/4 Tablespoon	50-200 ppm	Sanitizer – For Food Contact Surfaces and Toys

Test Your Disinfecting OR Sanitizing Solution with WaterWorks™ Free Chlorine Check Ultra High II Test Strips (#480124-3K)

- Step 1: Remove 1 test strip from Free Chlorine Check Ultra High II bottle and set in a dry place, replace cap on bottle and tighten. Keep the test strip away from water until ready to test.
- Step 2: Dip test strip into prepared solution sample for 1 full second.
- Step 3: Remove strip from sample and shake the strip once, briskly, to remove excess solution sample (a trashcan is recommended). *Caution: drops of disinfecting or sanitizing solution can bleach fabric and may cause skin and eye irritation.*
- Step 4: After 1 minute match the test pad to the closest color on the bottle color chart within the next 15 seconds. Results will show parts per million (ppm) concentration of Free Chlorine (bleach).

