

# Cleaning & Disinfecting

Guidance on safe cleaning & disinfecting practices for COVID-19

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# Cleaning - Disinfecting - Sanitizing: What do these terms mean??

- ▶ **Cleaning:** Removing dirt and impurities from surfaces.
  - ▶ Think "ELBOW GREASE"
- ▶ **Disinfect:** Killing germs on surfaces.
  - ▶ Using an [EPA approved disinfectant](#)
- ▶ **Sanitize:** Make clean and hygienic.
  - ▶ **What occurs when cleaning and disinfecting both occur.**



# Cleaning

- ▶ Clean surfaces using soap and water.
- ▶ Practice routine cleaning of frequently touched surfaces

For additional information, visit:

[CDC: Cleaning and Disinfecting Your Facility](#)

- ▶ **High touch surfaces**

- ▶ Tables
- ▶ Doorknobs
- ▶ Light switches
- ▶ Countertops
- ▶ Handles
- ▶ Desks
- ▶ Keyboards
- ▶ Toilets
- ▶ Faucets
- ▶ Sinks



# Disinfecting

- ▶ Clean the area with soap and water THEN use disinfectant!!
- ▶ Use a disinfectant that has been approved by the EPA as effective against COVID-19
- ▶ Follow the instructions on the label!!
- ▶ Many products recommend:
  - ▶ Keeping surface wet for a period of time
  - ▶ Use of PPE such as gloves or chemical splash goggles
  - ▶ Having good ventilation
- ▶ Click [here](#) for the list of EPA-registered household disinfectants



# Is Bleach Safe & Effective Against COVID-19??

Bleach is on the list of EPA [approved disinfectants!](#)

- ❖ Bleach is a disinfectant **NOT** a cleaner
- ❖ Most effective on a clean surface

Bleach is corrosive to skin and eyes.

There are **additional regulations that apply** when using bleach.



# Additional Requirements for Bleach

## Training Requirements

- ▶ Any employee using bleach or bleach water must be provided with proper training.
- ▶ Training must be documented.



## Personal Protective Equipment Requirements

- ▶ Any employee using bleach or bleach water must have proper PPE including:
  - ▶ Chemical-resistant gloves
  - ▶ Wrap-around or chemical splash goggles



# Additional Requirements for Bleach

## Labeling Requirements

- ▶ All secondary containers, such as spray bottles, **must** be labeled according to GHS labeling requirements, including:
  - ▶ **Full** chemical name (no abbreviations)
  - ▶ Dilution
  - ▶ Any known hazards
    - ▶ Corrosive to skin and eyes

Bleach Water Solution  
4 tsp : 1 quart  
Corrosive to skin and eyes

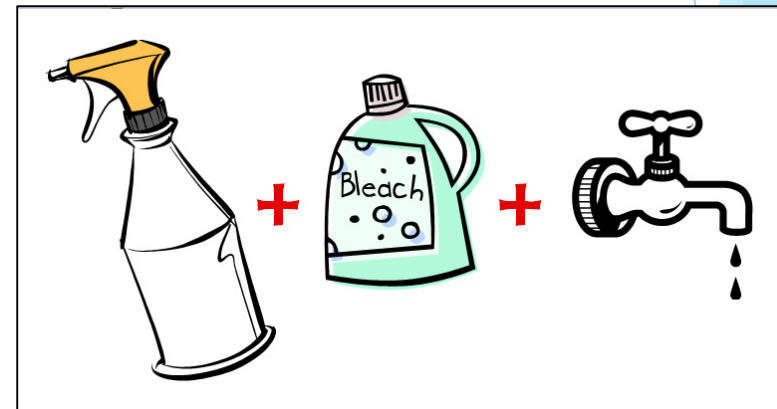
## Disposal Requirements

- ▶ Any unused bleach water mixtures/ solutions must be properly disposed of **each night**.
- ▶ Bleach water loses its effectiveness with age, making it difficult to determine its germ killing properties.



# Bleach: Mixing Process

- ▶ Bleach water **must** be mixed **daily** as it loses effectiveness with age.
- ▶ Bleach water **must** be mixed near an eyewash station (or within 10 seconds of an eyewash station) due to its corrosive nature
- ▶ Recommendations for bleach water solution:
  - ▶ 5 tablespoons (1/3 cup) bleach per gallon of water, *or*
  - ▶ 4 teaspoons bleach per quart of water





# Bleach: Safe Practices



- ▶ Always add the bleach first **THEN** add the water
- ▶ **NEVER** mix bleach with other products, especially cleaners containing ammonia, alcohol, or acidic compounds (i.e. vinegar or window cleaner)
  - ▶ Ammonia + Bleach = Chloramine Gas
  - ▶ Ammonia + Alcohol = Chlorine Gas
  - ▶ Ammonia + Acidic Compounds = Chloroform
- ▶ Consider wearing protective clothing
  - ▶ Long-sleeved shirts that cover your skin in case of bleach spills or splashes.

# Important Resources

- ▶ CDC Recommendations for Cleaning and Disinfecting Your Facility
  - ▶ <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/disinfecting-building-facility.html>
- ▶ EPA: Disinfectants for Use Against SARS-CoV-2 (the virus that causes COVID-19)
  - ▶ <https://www.epa.gov/pesticide-registration/list-n-disinfectants-use-against-sars-cov-2>