

Bleach Solution

*Strength and usage per manufacturer's instructions on the label

General Purpose, Toys, Diaper Area

= Disinfectant*



**Food Contact Surfaces, Mouth
Contact Items, Infant Toys**

= Sanitizer*



IMPORTANT INFORMATION ABOUT NEW BLEACH CONCENTRATIONS

For those of you who use a diluted bleach solution for sanitizing and disinfecting your child care facility, manufacturers of household bleach have changed the concentration of bleach sold by retail stores and chemical suppliers. The new bleach solutions vary between 6.0 % to 8.25 % sodium hypochlorite solution. These concentrations are higher than the formerly available bleach solution of 5.25 % that is no longer being manufactured. All recipes used in SNHD regulations and guidelines were based on a 5.25 % solution of sodium hypochlorite and should no longer be used.

Because of the differing concentrations, the recommendations for diluting a bleach solution for sanitizing or disinfecting depend upon the specific bleach. It is no longer possible to provide a generic bleach recipe for sanitizing and disinfecting.

In order to make the appropriate strength solution, it is **ESSENTIAL** that you:

1. Follow the manufacturer's label instructions for dilution and verify the strength of the solution using chlorine test strips.
2. Comply with the label instructions for the required contact time (keeping the surface wet with the bleach solution) for either sanitizing or disinfecting purposes.
3. Provide a potable water rinse if required by the manufacturer.



A SANITIZING SOLUTION needs to be used for food contact surfaces such as: dishes, utensils, tables and high chair trays, or toys that a child may place in the mouth.

A DISINFECTING SOLUTION needs to be used for: diapering areas, bathrooms, general purpose on floors, walls, high touch areas, and toys that are not placed in the mouth.

- **USE ONLY EPA** registered products for sanitizing and disinfecting
- **ALWAYS** follow the manufacturer's instructions that are listed on the label
- **CLEAN FIRST** prior to **ANY** sanitizing or disinfecting, scrub with soap and water, followed by a water rinse to remove soap and other residue
- **DO NOT** mix bleach solutions with other household chemicals
- **PREPARE** working containers of sanitizing and disinfecting solutions daily
- **DO NOT** use scented, splashless or color-safe bleach
- **OBTAIN and USE** chlorine test strips to verify proper dilution as specified by the manufacturer
- **ASSURE** proper contact time prior to returning item or surface to use
- **CLEARLY LABEL** all working containers, and keep out of reach of children
- **FOLLOW** manufacturer's label instructions for possible required water rinse following the appropriate contact time
- **WHEN YOU USE** a new bottle of bleach, remember to check the manufacturer's label instructions