



Colorado Department
of Public Health
and Environment

Division of Environmental Health & Sustainability

Using Bleach in Child Care

Sanitizing

Clorox and other bleach products have increased the percentage of hypochlorite (the active ingredient) from 6% to 8.25%. Please check your bleach bottle to determine the percentage of hypochlorite.

Active Ingredient:

Sodium Hypochlorite.....8.25%

OTHER INGREDIENTS.....91.75%

TOTAL.....100%

The use of bleach as a SANITIZER for food contact surfaces, tables, and toys should be mixed and/or tested daily for a concentration of 50-200 ppm.

Concentration	Amount of Bleach (8.25%)	Amount of Water
100 ppm	1 tsp	1 gallon (128 oz)
100 ppm	1/4 tsp	1 quart (32 oz)
100 ppm	1/8 tsp	1 pint (16 oz)

* To mix a 50ppm solution decrease the amount of bleach in half. To mix a 200 ppm solution double the amount of bleach.

After a surface is sprayed with the bleach solution it shall remain wet for 1-2 minutes and allowed to air dry. The working bottles should be labeled:

SANITIZER FOR TABLES/TOYS

For more information review the labeled instructions on the bleach bottle.

Disinfecting

The concentration and contact time for Clorox and other bleach products used as a DISINFECTANT differ from previous guidance given. The current Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) registration and labeled instructions require a much stronger concentration, a longer contact time, and a rinse step. See specific label of the product used for Instructions. The working bottle should be labeled:

DISINFECTANT FOR RESTROOMS/DIAPER CHANGING/BODY FLUIDS ETC.

Other Options

If the changes in the use of bleach do not meet the needs of your program, other disinfectants are approved for use. In determining if a DISINFECTANT is approved please verify the following information:

- The chemical is registered with the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and has an EPA registration number.
- The chemical is a hospital grade DISINFECTANT.
- The use of the chemical must be in accordance with the EPA labeled instructions including:
 1. Concentration
 2. Contact Time
 3. Method and
 4. Surfaces



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For more information:

<http://www.colorado.gov/cdphe/dehs>
(303) 692-3645