

## Bleach Solutions (6% sodium hypochlorite)

<p><b><u>General Purpose: Spray solution</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• 1/2 tablespoon bleach to 1 gallon water</li></ul> <p>(For tabletops, toys, general sanitizing, food preparation area's, etc.)</p> <p>For 32 oz spray bottle (1/4 teaspoon bleach to 32oz water )</p> <p>For 20 oz spray bottle (1/8 teaspoon bleach to 20 oz water )</p>	<p><b><u>Diaper Area/Bathroom/Illness/Injury</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• 1oz bleach per 10 oz water</li></ul> <p>(for diaper areas, bathrooms, sickrooms, blood/body fluid contamination)</p>
<p><b><u>Soaking solution: Dish sink or basin</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• 1/2 tablespoon bleach to 1 gallon water</li></ul> <p>Mix solution in sink, basin, etc. Allow a 2 minute soak Air dry on sanitary surface</p> <p>(For dishes, mouthed toys, pacifiers, water toys, manipulative learning items, visibly contaminated items, etc.)</p>	

Chlorine bleach solutions are currently recommended for sanitizing disinfecting practices in early childhood settings. Household bleach is effective in killing many disease causing organisms. Chlorine bleach is an inexpensive product, which is easily accessible in every community. Chlorine bleach is used in very dilute solutions, allowing for repetitive sanitizing of items or surfaces which directly and indirectly go into the mouth. An EPA approved germicidal product may be used for sanitizing and disinfecting, however, caution must be used to prevent a toxic substance from accumulating or remaining on items such as mouthed toys, dishes, flatware, kitchen utensils, thermometers, table tops, or pacifiers.

### CHLORINE BLEACH GUIDELINES

Bleach can irritate the skin, eyes, or lungs if used incorrectly. Call POISON CONTROL for appropriate management instructions if bleach has been swallowed or splashed in the eyes.

#### Cleaning and Sanitizing

Cleaning: Remove dirt, grease, debris, and many germs by washing or scrubbing with soap (detergent) and water and then rinsing the soapy area with fresh water.

Sanitizing/Disinfecting: To kill disease-causing germs on contact. This process is accomplished by the use of household bleach solutions, commercially prepared products (germicides), or physical agents such as high heat. The activity of sanitizing reduces the number of disease-causing germs to a "safe" level by using one of these methods:

- Household bleach must contain at least 5.25% sodium hypochlorite (active ingredient)
- Never mix bleach with toilet cleaners, solvents, rust removers, etc. Products containing ammonia or acid can release hazardous gases if mixed with bleach.
- Store bleach in the original container, away from heat, pilot lights, or direct sunlight.
- Never reuse bleach containers for liquids or food storage.
- Make spray solutions at least once each week. Daily is best.
- Clearly label the spray bottles with bleach solutions contents (use a permanent felt tip marker).
- Spray solutions kill many germs in a very short contact time.
- Soak solutions may take from 2 to 5 minutes to kill germs.
- OSHA guidelines include the use of 1:10 bleach and water for some infection control practices.