

Sanitizing with Bleach

Household bleach is a common product used in schools and child care facilities but does require mixing with water before use. Bleach can be combined with water to make both sanitizing and disinfecting solutions, the difference is the concentration of the solution. A sanitizing solution is required to be mixed and readily available during hours of operation. Different bleach manufacturers use different strengths and instructions on their products, so it's important to always follow the labeled instructions for the product you are using. **If you want to use a sanitizing solution other than bleach in a child care facility it MUST be labeled "FOR USE ON FOOD CONTACT SURFACES" in the instructions for use. Check with CDPHE or your local health department if you are unsure whether or not the sanitizing product is approved for use in a child care facility.**

DO

- ✓ Use household bleach with instructions for use as a **FOOD CONTACT SURFACE SANITIZER**.
- ✓ Use on food contact surfaces, tables, toys, and common touch surfaces.
- ✓ Wash with soap and water followed by rinsing before sanitizing.

DO NOT

- ⚠ Do not use scented or splashless/low splash bleach.
- ⚠ Do not use on diaper tables or surfaces contaminated with high hazard body fluids. These surfaces should be disinfected.
- ⚠ Do not use before the surface is cleaned with soap and rinsed with water.

Read the Label

When the label on the bleach bottle instructs you to mix **1 teaspoon per 1 gallon of water** you can follow the chart below to mix smaller quantities.

Amount of Bleach	Amount of Water
1 teaspoon	1 gallon (128 oz)
1/4 teaspoon	1 quart (32 oz)
1/8 teaspoon	1 pint (16 oz)

When the label on the bleach bottle instructs you to mix **2 teaspoons per 1 gallon of water** you can follow the chart below to mix smaller quantities.

Amount of Bleach	Amount of Water
2 teaspoon	1 gallon (128 oz)
1/2 teaspoon	1 quart (32 oz)
1/4 teaspoon	1 pint (16 oz)

Always follow the instructions for how long the sanitizing solution needs to stay wet on the surface. This is referred to as the contact time.

Mixing Your Bleach Sanitizing Solution

- Step 01** Use a measuring spoon for exact measurements each time you mix your sanitizing solution. This measuring spoon should only be used for bleach.
- Step 02** Test your sanitizing solution with chlorine test strips to verify that it is between 50-200 parts per million (ppm). Test your sanitizing solution every day. If the solution is not 50-200 ppm, it needs to be discarded and remade.
- Step 03** Label your spray bottle with "Bleach Sanitizer for Tables and Toys". See enclosed sample labels.



Contact CDPHE or your Local Public Health Agency with Questions
(303)692-3645

cdphe_iepu@state.co.us

<https://cdphe.colorado.gov/public-information/find-your-local-public-health-agency>

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Use the labels below for your spray bottles

STEP 1

WASH

SOAP AND WATER

STEP 2

RINSE

WATER

STEP 3

SANITIZE

SANITIZER NAME (ex. bleach and water)

**FOR FOOD CONTACT SURFACES,
TABLES AND TOYS**

STEP 1

WASH

SOAP AND WATER

STEP 2

RINSE

WATER

STEP 3

SANITIZE

SANITIZER NAME (ex. bleach and water)

**FOR FOOD CONTACT SURFACES,
TABLES AND TOYS**