

Sodium Hypochlorite Bleach as A Disinfectant against Avian Influenza A(H5N1)

The following published source provides documentation regarding the efficacy of sodium hypochlorite (5.25% household bleach) as a disinfectant against Avian Influenza A(H5N1):

www.who.int/csr/resources/publications/surveillance/Annex7.pdf

In its *Guide for Field Operations, October 2006*, the World Health Organization (WHO) recommends the use of sodium hypochlorite in a 1:10 (0.5% or 5,000 ppm) solution for decontaminating blood or body fluid spills as well as vehicle tires driven onto potentially infected poultry farms. ***Chlorine is the best disinfectant for use against A(H5N1) contamination. There are two main reasons for this: 1. In many countries it is the only cheap and easily available disinfectant against influenza viruses. 2. It is one of the few disinfectants that can be safely used in laboratories where PCR work is undertaken because it fragments nucleic acids. Other disinfectants such as quaternary ammonium compounds and alcohols precipitate nucleic acids and can give false results in PCR tests. The best compound for the preparation of chlorine solutions for disinfection is household bleach.*** (See Pages 39-41, Annex 7: Disinfection)