

## Sodium Hypochlorite Bleach as A Disinfectant against Anthrax (Bacillus anthracis)

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The following published source provides documentation regarding the efficacy of sodium hypochlorite (5.25% household bleach in a 10% solution) as a disinfectant against Anthrax:

<http://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/preview/mmwrhtml/mm5113a4.htm>

The CDC recommends a 10% bleach solution to kill Anthrax spores in laboratories in its MMWR Weekly publication April 5, 2002, *Suspected Cutaneous Anthrax in a Laboratory Worker --- Texas, 2002. A vigorous program of routine decontamination with a 10% bleach solution is needed to kill viable B. anthracis spores on laboratory surfaces and vials. Alcohol is not sufficient to eliminate viable B. anthracis spores from contaminated surfaces.* (See Page 3, Editorial Note)

<http://www.pubmedcentral.nih.gov/articlerender.fcgi?artid=1305820>

The NIH publishes *Preparing for Bioterrorism* from the Departments of Epidemiology and Pathology at Baylor University Medical Center. The article recommends a 1:9 (10%) solution of household bleach for decontaminating surfaces exposed to Anthrax. ***If environmental surfaces need to be decontaminated, an Environmental Protection Agency-approved sporicidal/germicidal agent or a 0.5% hypochlorite solution (1 part household bleach to 9 parts water) should be used.*** (See Page 4, Anthrax)