

## Recommendations for Daily Preparation of Diluted Sodium Hypochlorite Bleach Disinfectant Solutions

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The following published sources provide documentation regarding the need for daily preparation of fresh bleach solutions for disinfection purposes:

<http://www.who.int/infectious-disease-news/IDdocs/whocds200317/8collection.pdf>

The World Health Organization's *Guidelines for Collection of Specimens for Laboratory Testing in the Communicable Disease Toolkit, March 2003*, recommends daily preparation of bleach disinfectant solutions. ***Chlorine solutions gradually lose strength, thus fresh solutions must be prepared daily.*** (See Annex 6, Page 10.)

<http://www.cdc.gov/ncidod/dvrd/Spb/mnpages/vhfmanual/section5.htm>

In its *Infection Control for Viral Haemorrhagic Fevers In the African Health Care Setting*, the Special Pathogens Branch of the CDC recommends the daily preparation of bleach disinfectant solutions. ***Bleach solutions must be prepared daily. They lose their strength after 24 hours. Anytime the odour of chlorine is not present, discard the solution.*** (See Section 5, *Disinfect Reusable Supplies and Equipment.*)

[www.who.int/csr/resources/publications/surveillance/Annex7.pdf](http://www.who.int/csr/resources/publications/surveillance/Annex7.pdf)

In its *Guide for Field Operations, October 2006*, the World Health Organization (WHO) recommends the daily preparation of chlorine solutions. ***When preparing chlorine solutions for use note that chlorine solutions gradually lose strength, and freshly diluted solutions must therefore be prepared daily.*** (See page 39, Annex 7: *Disinfection*)

[www.osha.gov/Publications/hand\\_hygiene.html](http://www.osha.gov/Publications/hand_hygiene.html)

The U.S. Department of Labor publishes an OSHA *Quick Card* on Hand Hygiene that recommends the daily preparation of fresh bleach solutions for decontamination. ***Prepare fresh solutions daily, preferably just before use.*** (See OSHA *Quick Card: Disinfecting Water for Tool/Surface Decontamination*)