

## Recommendations for The Use of Sodium Hypochlorite to Disinfect HEPA Filters

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The following published sources provide authoritative documentation regarding sodium hypochlorite bleach to disinfect HEPA filters in laboratories, and healthcare institutions:

[http://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/preview/mmwrhtml/rr5417a1.htm?s\\_cid=rr5417a1\\_e](http://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/preview/mmwrhtml/rr5417a1.htm?s_cid=rr5417a1_e)

### Installing, maintaining, and monitoring HEPA filters.

Laboratory studies indicate that re-aerosolization of viable mycobacteria from filter material (HEPA filters and N95 disposable respirator filter media) is not probable under normal conditions (414--416). Although these studies indicate that *M. tuberculosis* becoming an airborne hazard is not probable after it is removed by a HEPA filter (or other high efficiency filter material), the risks associated with handling loaded HEPA filters in ventilation systems under field-use conditions have not been evaluated. Therefore, persons performing maintenance and replacing filters on any ventilation system that is probably contaminated with *M. tuberculosis* should wear a respirator (see Respiratory Protection) in addition to eye protection and gloves. ***When feasible, HEPA filters can be disinfected in 10% bleach solution or other appropriate mycobacteriacide before removal*** (417). In addition, filter housing and ducts leading to the housing should be labeled clearly with the words "TBContaminated Air" or other similar warnings. Disposal of filters and other potentially contaminated materials should be in accordance with applicable local or state regulations.