

Daily Preparations of Bleach Solutions

Recommendations for Daily Preparation of Diluted Sodium Hypochlorite Bleach Disinfectant Solutions

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

http://www.osha.gov/pls/oshaweb/owadisp.show_document?p_table=DIRECTIVES&p_id=2570

OSHA Directive Number: CPL 02-02-069 (formerly CPL 2-2.69)

Subject: Enforcement Procedures for the Occupational Exposure to Bloodborne Pathogens

Methods of Compliance - 29 CFR 1910.1030(d). Paragraph (d)(4)(ii).

INSPECTION GUIDELINES.

NOTE: *Fresh solutions of diluted household bleach made up daily (every 24 hours) are also considered appropriate for disinfection of environmental surfaces* and for decontamination of sites following initial cleanup (i.e., wiping up) of spills of blood or other potentially infectious materials. Contact time for bleach is generally considered to be the time it takes the product to air dry. Solutions of bleach should not be stored in glass containers, but in material such as the plastic in which the bleach, the consumer product, is packaged in. Household bleach (5.25% sodium hypochlorite) diluted to the appropriate strength for the clean up job at hand is also an effective disinfectant, although bleach may cause damage to some medical instruments and therefore cannot be used in all cases. In addition, gross contamination must be cleaned up first with a soap and water solution, to ensure the disinfectant is completely effective.

<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.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*)

<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.)

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*)