



## Preparing Household Bleach as a Disinfectant

*Adapted from APIC Guideline for Selection and Use of Disinfectants*

Please remember the following:

- The solution must be made fresh daily to preserve strength
- The bottle must be labelled
- Clean before applying the disinfectant
- Follow the contact time

Level required	What to use on	How to mix the bleach solution
<b>High-level disinfection</b>  1:50 dilution of bleach (1 part bleach: 49 parts water) 1000ppm	Semi-critical items  Items that may accidentally penetrate skin and /or come into contact with blood or body fluids.  Use to clean surfaces following contact with blood or body fluids or where sterilization is not possible.  <b>Soaking time: 20 minutes</b>	10 ml bleach with 495 ml water or 2 tsp. bleach with 2 cups water
<b>Intermediate-level disinfection</b>  1:50 dilution of bleach (1 part bleach: 49 parts water) 1000ppm	Semi-critical items  Items that may accidentally penetrate skin and/or come into contact with blood or body fluids.  <b>Soaking time: 10 minutes</b>	10 ml bleach with 495 ml water * or 2 tsp. bleach with 2 cups water *For the average footbath that has 20 litres of water use 404 ml of bleach
<b>Low-level disinfection</b>  1:500 dilution of bleach (1 part bleach: 499 parts water) 100ppm	Non-critical items  Items that come in contact but do not penetrate intact skin or items that do not ordinarily touch the client. These items do not contact blood or body fluids. May be used for routine housekeeping.  <b>Soaking time: 10 minutes</b>	5 ml bleach with 2½ litres water or 1 tsp bleach with 10 cups water

Household bleach is 5.25% sodium hypochlorite solution (50,000ppm available chlorine)

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