

# Bleach

## How to Properly Clean and Sanitize using Bleach



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First wash surfaces with soap and warm, clean water to remove dirt and debris; then if it is ready to be sanitized, sanitize using household bleach.

It is critical to read and follow the safety instructions on any product that is used. Buying a product in a grocery store does not mean that the product is harmless! Below are the most important safety guidelines when using sanitizing products:

- Never mix bleach with ammonia or any other cleaner.
- Wear rubber or other non-porous boots, gloves, and eye protection to protect from splash of contaminants and chemicals.
- Try not to breathe in product fumes. If using products indoors, open windows and doors to allow fresh air to enter. Persons with asthma, COPD or chemical sensitivities should be extra cautious.

Use regular unscented 5% –6% household bleach and follow the instructions in the chart below.

### Cleaning and Sanitizing Food Cans and Surfaces

Area or Item to be Cleaned	Amount of Bleach and Water to Mix		Cleaning Steps
	Bleach Amount	Water Amount	
Food surfaces that may have touched flood water Examples: Countertops, plates, pet bowls, bulk food containers  <i>Note: Throw away wooden cutting boards and utensils, baby bottle nipples, and pacifiers, fiberboard containers</i>	1 teaspoon (4.9 mL)	1 gallon (3.8 L)	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Wash with soap and warm, clean water</li> <li>2. Rinse with clean water</li> <li>3. Sanitize using a mixture of 1 teaspoon (4.9 mL) of bleach per 1 gallon of clean water</li> <li>4. Allow to air dry</li> </ol>
Food cans that are <u>not</u> bulging, open, damaged, or rusty	1 cup (240 mL)	5 gallons (18.9 L)	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Remove can labels</li> <li>2. Wash cans with soap and warm, clean water</li> <li>3. Dip cans in mixture of 1 cup (240mL) of bleach per 5 gallons of water</li> <li>4. Allow to air dry</li> <li>5. Re-label cans with a permanent marker</li> </ol>

## Cleaning and Sanitizing Household Surfaces and Items

Area or Item to be Cleaned	Amount of Bleach and Water to Mix		Cleaning Steps
	Bleach Amount	Water Amount	
<p>Surfaces that do not soak up water and that may have touched floodwater, or hit with splash.</p> <p><i>Examples: Floors, sinks, certain toys, countertops, flatware, plates, tools, and appliances</i></p>	1 cup (240 mL)	5 gallons (18.9 L)	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Clean surface with soap and warm, clean water</li> <li>2. Rinse with clean water</li> <li>3. Sanitize using a mixture of 1 cup (240 mL) of bleach to 5 gallons of water</li> <li>4. Allow to air dry</li> </ol>

## Clean Mold Growth off Hard Surfaces

Area or Item to be Cleaned	Amount of Bleach and Water to Mix		Cleaning Steps
	Bleach Amount	Water Amount	
<p>Mold growth on hard surfaces.</p> <p><i>Examples: Floors, sinks, certain toys, countertops, tools, and appliances</i></p>	1 cup (240 mL)	1 gallon (3.8L)	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Mix 1 cup (240mL) of bleach in 1 gallon of water.</li> <li>2. Wash surfaces with the bleach mixture.</li> <li>3. If surfaces are rough, scrub them with a stiff brush.</li> <li>4. Rinse surfaces with clean water.</li> <li>5. Allow to air dry.</li> </ol>



***For more sources of information on this topic visit:***

ST. CLAIR COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT [www.scchealth.co](http://www.scchealth.co)  
 CENTERS FOR DISEASE CONTROL AND PREVENTION [www.cdc.gov](http://www.cdc.gov)  
 ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY [www.epa.gov](http://www.epa.gov)  
 THE FEDERAL EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AGENCY [www.ready.gov](http://www.ready.gov)  
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