



In light of the current COVID-19 outbreak, the following standards and procedures for the worker cleaning and disinfection of surfaces using a standard diluted bleach solution is to be implemented.

The following standards meet or exceed the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) recommendations.

Routine cleaning and disinfecting of frequently touched surfaces and objects such as tables, countertops, light switches, doorknobs and the interior of vehicles is everyone's responsibility.

- Discuss the Cleaning Activity to be Performed with all Workers
- Review how to safely prepare a bleach/water mixture for the disinfection of surfaces at CTDOT facilities.

Cleaning and Disinfecting Surfaces – Clean dirty surfaces using soap and water before using a diluted bleach solution to disinfect or sanitize, if necessary.

Diluted Bleach Solution Safety and Proper Mixing

- Check to ensure the product is not past its expiration date.
- Unexpired household bleach will be effective against coronaviruses when properly diluted.
- Follow manufacturer's instructions for application and proper ventilation.
- Never mix household bleach with ammonia or any other cleanser.
- Follow the instructions on the label to ensure safe and effective use of the product.
- Check the Sodium Hypochlorite percentage. Standard household bleach is usually 5.25% - 8.25%.
- If it is more than 8.25% follow the instructions on the label or contact the Safety Division.

IMPORTANT! Using more is not always better! Using more is a waste of bleach which is in very short supply.

These mixtures are good for a 24 hour time period. After the 24 hours they start to lose their effectiveness.

Preparation of disinfecting solution with Household bleach (5.25% sodium Hypochlorite)

- When mixing standard household bleach, (Clorox) to disinfect surfaces mix 1/2 cup of household bleach to 1 gallon of water. This is per the manufactures recommendations and is exceeding the guidelines of the CDC.
 - 4 ounces bleach to 128 ounces of water
 - 1 ounce bleach to 32 ounces water

Use of Diluted Bleach Solution for Disinfecting

- The bleach/water solution are to be applied to the surfaces to be sanitized with a spray bottle, and left to sit for at least 5 minutes.
- After the surfaces have been left to sit for 5 minutes the surfaces may be dried in the usual fashion or left to dry naturally.

CAUTION! DO NOT mix bleach/sodium hypochlorite with any other cleaning products, or ammonia which will release hazardous gasses into the atmosphere! When mixing the solutions pour the chemical into the water to prevent splash hazards.

Supplies

As everyone knows cleaning supplies are in short supply nationwide. Please conserve supplies as much as possible however, always try to use the proper bleach/water mixing solutions. When additional supplies are needed, work through your chain of command to be resupplied as soon as possible.