

## Bleach as a Child Care Sanitizer or Disinfecting Solution – with Poster



Use the recommended recipes for diluting household bleach as a sanitizer or disinfectant as shown in the poster illustration on the next page. Only use these recipes with a bleach product that is not labeled with an EPA registration number. Under federal law, you must use any EPA registered product according to the instructions on the product's label.

Both the sanitizing and disinfecting bleach dilutions must be made fresh daily. Avoid confusing the two different dilutions. Do not keep the (weaker) sanitizing bleach solution in a spray bottle. Mix it in a clean container. Then pour and spread it with a clean paper towel on tables and highchair trays. Make a dip solution for eating utensils and dishes. Allow 2 minutes of contact time before wiping it off with a clean, dry paper towel, or let it air dry.

Keep the (stronger) disinfecting bleach solution in a spray bottle. Dispense only the amount needed to coat the surfaces to glistening. Allow 2 minutes of contact time before wiping it off with a clean, dry paper towel or let the surface air dry.

If possible, label the bottles with different colored labels for each type of solution. Put the following information on the label:

- Name of the solution
- Amount of bleach put into a specified amount of water
- Location of the original bottle of bleach used to make the dilution
- List of the surfaces on which to use the solution per *Caring for Our Children*, Third edition, 2011, Appendix K: Routine Schedule for Cleaning, Sanitizing, and Disinfecting (access at [www.nrckids.org](http://www.nrckids.org)).

Remember that a surface must be visibly clean before applying any sanitizer or disinfectant solution. If the surface is not visibly clean, clean it with a detergent and water solution, and then rinse off the detergent with water. Contact ECELS for further clarification by e-mail: [ecels@paaap.org](mailto:ecels@paaap.org) or by phone: 484-446-3003.

The source of the recommended recipes to dilute household bleach is Appendix J of *Caring for Our Children*, Third Edition, available online at [www.nrckids.org](http://www.nrckids.org). (10/22/12)

## How to Dilute Household Bleach for a Sanitizer or Disinfecting Solution



Figure 2.8 adapted from Aronson, S.S. 2012. *Healthy Young Children*. Washington, DC: NAEYC/ Copyright ©2012 NAEYC®. Reprinted with permission