

Preparing Household Bleach as a Disinfectant

Level Required	Preparation	Contact Time
High Level Disinfection 1:50 dilution (1 part bleach : 49 parts water) or	10 mL bleach + 495 mL water 2 tsp bleach + 2 cups water	20 minutes
1:10 dilution (1 part bleach : 9 parts water)	5 mL of bleach + 45 mL water 6 tsp bleach + 1 cup of water	10 minutes
Intermediate Level Disinfection 1:50 dilution (1 part bleach : 49 parts water)	10 mL bleach + 495 mL water 2 tsp bleach + 2 cups water	10 minutes
	Footbaths 303 mL bleach + 15 L water 404 mL bleach + 20 L water or 1 ¼ cups bleach + 4 gallons water 1 ¾ cups bleach + 5 ¼ gallons water	
Low Level Disinfection 1:500 dilution (1 part bleach : 499 parts water)	5 mL bleach + 2.5 L water 1 tsp bleach + 10 cups water	10 minutes

Notes:

- The above dilutions are based on use of household bleach at **5.25%** sodium hypochlorite
- For all other bleach strengths (other than 5.25%) or calculating different volumes, use the Chlorine Dilution Calculator at: <https://www.publichealthontario.ca/en/Health-Topics/Environmental-Occupational-Health/Water-Quality/Chlorine-Dilution-Calculator>
- Use a proper cleaner before disinfecting area or equipment/device
- The solution must be made fresh daily to preserve strength



Durham Health Connection Line
 905-668-2020 or 1-800-841-2729
 Dial 311 (within regional limits)
durham.ca/health

HEALTH
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If you require this information in an accessible format, contact 1-800-841-2729.



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