

CLEANING AND SANITIZING WITH BLEACH AFTER AN EMERGENCY

Safety Tips

Use regular unscented 5.25% household bleach. Read and follow the safety instructions on the bleach container's label. Never mix bleach with ammonia or any other cleaner. Wear rubber boots, rubber gloves, and eye protection. Try not to breathe bleach fumes. Open windows and doors to get fresh air.

Cleaning Recommendations

The amount of bleach to mix with water depends on what you are cleaning or sanitizing. The following chart describes some items or surfaces that should and can be cleaned, the amount of bleach to mix with water, and cleaning steps for specific purposes.

Water

Area or Item to be Cleaned	Bleach	Water	Cleaning Steps
Clear drinking water	1/8 teaspoon	1 gallon	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Mix 1/8 teaspoon bleach per 1 gallon of water. 2. Add it to water. 3. Let it stand for about 30 minutes before using it.
Cloudy drinking water	1/4 teaspoon	1 gallon	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Mix 1/4 teaspoon bleach per 1 gallon water. 2. Add it to water. 3. Let it stand for about 30 minutes before using it.
Water storage containers (ex. Used cans or bottles).	1 teaspoon	1 cup	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Mix soap and clean water in the container. 2. Shake or stir to clean inside of container. 3. Rinse container. 4. Mix 1 teaspoon bleach per 1 cup water and pour it in the container. 5. Cover the container and shake so the solution touches all inside surfaces. 6. Cover and let stand for 30 minutes. 7. Rinse with clean water.

Food Cans and Surfaces

Area or Item to be Cleaned	Bleach	Water	Cleaning Steps
Food-contact surfaces that may have touched floodwater (ex. Plates, countertops). Note: Throw away wooden cutting boards, baby bottle nipples, and pacifiers.	1 teaspoon	1 gallon	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Wash with soap and warm, clean water. 2. Rinse with clean water. 3. Sanitize using a mixture of 1 teaspoon bleach per gallon of clean water. 4. Allow to air dry.
Food cans that are not bulging, open or damaged.	1 cup	5 gallons	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Remove can labels. 2. Wash cans with soap and clean water. 3. Dip cans in mixture of 1 cup of bleach per 5 gallons of water. 4. Relabel cans with a marker.

Other Household Surfaces and Items

Area or Item to be Cleaned	Bleach	Water	Cleaning Steps
Surfaces that do not soak up water and that may have touched floodwater (ex. Floors, stoves, sinks, certain toys).	1 cup	5 gallons	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Clean surface with soap and clean water. 2. Disinfect with a mixture of 1 cup of bleach to 5 gallons of water. 3. Allow to air dry.

Mold Growth On Hard Surfaces

Area or Item to be Cleaned	Bleach	Water	Cleaning Steps
Mold growth on hard surfaces (ex. Floors, stoves, sinks, countertops, tools).	1 cup	1 gallon	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Mix 1 cup of bleach in 1 gallon of water. 2. Wash the item with the bleach mixture. 3. If the surface of the item is rough, scrub the surface with a stiff brush. 4. Rinse the item with clean water. 5. Dry the item or leave it out to dry.