

Sanitizing and Disinfecting in Daycares

Sanitizers are used to reduce microorganisms to a safe level. They are used on **Food-Contact surfaces**, such as tables, countertops, utensils, and equipment.

Disinfectants are used to destroy or inactivate microorganisms, but not necessarily their spores. They are used on **hard surfaces** and **highly contaminated surfaces**, such as toilets, cribs, cots, toys, and changing tables.

Chlorine Bleach can be used as both a sanitizer and disinfectant, depending on the concentration. ****Use regular strength bleach (5.25% hypochlorite), not concentrated. Do not use scented or splash-less varieties.**



Food-contact surfaces must be sanitized with a solution between 50-200 ppm Chlorine. We recommend a concentration of 100 ppm, as this is an effective concentration at room temperature. Mix **½ Tablespoon of bleach per gallon of water** to achieve 100 ppm.

Cribs, toys, playpens, and changing tables must be disinfected with a solution equivalent to **¼ Cup bleach per gallon of water** (~800 ppm).

You must follow these procedures: **Apply → Air Dry → Rinse → Air Dry**

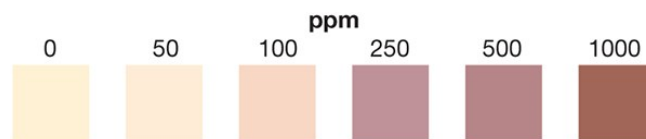
****Chlorine concentrations above 200 ppm will leave a toxic residue, which is why the disinfectant must be rinsed, but not the sanitizer.**

****Surfaces must be clean before sanitizing or disinfecting. Remove oils, dirt, or any gross contamination with appropriate cleaning agent (soapy water, wipes, etc.) before disinfecting or sanitizing step.**

Label each spray bottle with the contents. Make sure to label your bleach bottles by **concentration or by purpose** (i.e., food-contact vs diapering), so different concentrations are not misused.

Test your chlorine concentration using appropriate test strips. The concentration is measured in Parts Per Million (ppm).

****Disinfectant concentrations above 200 ppm cannot be measured with test strips made for sanitizer solutions. Purchase test strips appropriate for higher concentrations that range from 0-1000 ppm, instead of just 0-200 ppm.**



Quaternary Ammonium (Quat/QA) can also be used as a **sanitizer** for food contact surfaces. It should be mixed according to manufacturer's instructions to a concentration of 150-400 ppm. Like bleach sanitizer, it does not need to be rinsed after application.

Test the concentration with appropriate test strips designed for QA.

Label each spray bottle with the contents.

****QA is not effective against Norovirus**, which is why a chlorine bleach disinfectant must be used on changing stations or when cleaning up after vomit or diarrheal events.



Measurements for Chlorine Bleach solutions in spray bottles



32 oz bottle (quart)	Bleach
Sanitizer (100 ppm)	½ Teaspoon
Disinfectant (800 ppm)	1 Tablespoon

**Test the concentration before use.

**Sanitizers and Disinfectants should be remade daily or when they fall below the appropriate concentration.

In the Day Care Regulations, it states that ¼ cup of bleach per gallon of water or equivalent solution must be used on toys, cribs, playpens, and changing tables. If you would like to use an alternative to bleach when *disinfecting*, you must use an EPA registered disinfectant that is effective against Norovirus. Alternative disinfectants must be used as directed in the manufacturer's instructions.

If there is a communicable disease or foodborne illness outbreak in the facility, please contact the Health Department at 454-6950 for proper disinfection guidance.