

## Preparing Household Bleach as a Disinfectant

*Adapted from APIC Guideline for Selection and Use of Disinfectants*

The solution must be made fresh daily to preserve strength.

Household Bleach Solution is 5.25% sodium hypochlorite solution (50,000 ppm available chlorine)

Level required	When to be used—see Table 2 on disinfection	How to mix the bleach solution
<b>High-level Disinfection</b>  1:50 dilution of bleach (1 part bleach: 49 parts water)	Use on semi-critical items: items that may accidentally penetrate skin and /or come into contact with blood or body fluids. Also use to clean surfaces following contact with blood or body fluids or where sterilization is not possible.  Contact time $\geq$ 20 minutes	10 ml bleach with 495 ml water or 2 tsp. bleach with 2 cups water
Intermediate-Level Disinfection  1:50 dilution of bleach (1 part bleach: 49 parts water)	Use on semi-critical items: items that may accidentally penetrate skin and/or come into contact with blood or body fluids (e.g. hair clippers, cuticle scissors).  Contact time $\geq$ 10 minutes	10 ml bleach with 495 ml water or 2 tsp. bleach with 2 cups water
<b>Low-Level Disinfection</b>  1:500 dilution of bleach (1 part bleach: 499 parts water)	Use on non-critical items: items that come in contact but do not penetrate intact skin, or those that do not ordinarily touch the client. These items do not contact blood or body fluids. May be used for routine housekeeping (e.g. floors or surfaces).  Contact time $\geq$ 10 minutes	5 ml bleach with 2½ litres water or 1 tsp bleach with 10 cups water