

Infection Prevention and Control Best Practices for Personal Services Settings  
**Preparing Household Bleach as a Disinfectant**

Level Required	Preparation	Contact Time
<b>High Level Disinfection</b>  1:50 dilution (1 part bleach : 49 parts water)	10 mL bleach + 495 mL water or 2 tsp bleach + 2 cups water	<b>20 minutes</b>
<b>Intermediate Level Disinfection</b>  1:50 dilution (1 part bleach : 49 parts water)	10 mL bleach + 495 mL water or 2 tsp bleach + 2 cups water	<b>10 minutes</b>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Re-circulating footbaths</b></li> <li>303 mL bleach + 15 L water</li> <li>404 mL bleach + 20 L water</li> <li>or</li> <li>1 ¼ cups bleach + 4 gallons water</li> <li>1 ¾ cups bleach + 5 ¼ gallons water</li> </ul>	
<b>Low Level Disinfection</b>  1:500 dilution (1 part bleach : 499 parts water)	5 mL bleach + 2.5 L water or 1 tsp bleach + 10 cups water	<b>10 minutes</b>

**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: <http://www.publichealthontario.ca/en/ServicesAndTools/Tools/Pages/Dilution-Calculator.aspx>
- Use proper cleaner before disinfecting area or equipment / device
- The solution must be made fresh daily to preserve strength



**Environmental Help Line**  
 1-888-777-9613 or 905-723-3818  
[durham.ca](http://durham.ca)

Information available in accessible formats.



DUHEV-460 Nov/13

Adapted from: Infection Prevention and Control Best Practices for Personal Services Settings, Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care, January 2009.