

Using Bleach Properly in Animal Shelters



Bleach is an effective disinfectant when used properly. However, some of its properties make it less desirable than other commonly available disinfectants.

Review the [Shelter Disinfectant Poster](#) to help select the best disinfectant for your needs.

If bleach is the best option for your current needs, be sure to follow the recommendations below to ensure its effectiveness.

Follow Basic Practices:

- Prepare fresh diluted bleach solutions daily or more frequently if solution is contaminated by organic material.
- Discard any solution left from the previous day.
- Protect the diluted bleach solution from light.
- Clean surfaces with a detergent solution before applying the bleach solution. Bleach does not have detergent activity.
- Always rinse bleach solution from surfaces after the appropriate contact time.

Prepare a Solution:

1. Add the correct volume of water to an empty container of the required size.
2. Add the correct volume of bleach to the water in the container.

Example: Add **1 gallon of water** to an appropriately sized container, then add 1/2 cup 5.25% bleach to the water.

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1:32 Dilution: Use for General Disinfection

(effective against Parvovirus, Panleukopenia and Ringworm)

This Volume of Water...

Requires this Volume of 5.25% Bleach

1 gallon	1/2 cup
24 ounces	4 1/2 teaspoons
16 ounces	1 tablespoon
8 ounces	1 1/2 teaspoons

Liquid Volumes

This Volume...

Equals...

In Milliliters...

1 gallon	4 quarts OR 8 pints OR 16 cups OR 128 ounces	3840 ml
1 quart	2 pints OR 4 cups OR 32 ounces	960 ml
1 pint	2 cups OR 16 ounces	480 ml
1 cup	8 ounces	240 ml
1 ounce	2 tablespoons	30 ml
1 tablespoon	3 teaspoons	15 ml
1/2 tablespoon	1 1/2 teaspoons	7.5 ml