



# 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