

## Household Cleaning & Sanitizing

Cleaning and sanitizing your household after an emergency is important to help prevent the spread of illness and disease.

### Using Cleaning & Sanitizing Products

First, wash surfaces with soap and warm, clean water to remove dirt and debris. Next, sanitize surfaces with household bleach.

It is critical to read and follow the safety instructions on any product you use. Below are the most important safety guidelines when using sanitizing products:

- **Never** mix bleach with ammonia or any other cleaner.
- Wear rubber or other non-porous boots, gloves, and eye protection.
- Try not to breathe in product fumes. If using products indoors, open windows and doors to allow fresh air to enter.

### Cleaning & Sanitizing with Bleach

Use regular unscented household bleach and follow the instructions in the chart below.

### Recommendations for Cleaning and Sanitizing Various Surfaces with Bleach and Water

Area or Item to be Cleaned	Bleach Amount	Water Amount	Cleaning Steps
Food surfaces that may have touched flood water [Examples: countertops, plates] Note: Throw away wooden cutting boards, baby bottle nipples, and pacifiers	1 teaspoon (5 mL)	1 gallon	<ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. Wash with soap and warm, clean water.</li><li>2. Rinse with clean water.</li><li>3. Sanitize using a mixture of 1 teaspoon (5 mL) of bleach per 1 gallon of clean water.</li><li>4. Allow to air dry.</li></ol>
Food cans that are not bulging, open, or damaged	1 cup (8 ounces)	5 gallons	<ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. Remove can labels.</li><li>2. Wash cans with soap and warm, clean water.</li></ol>

Area or Item to be Cleaned	Bleach Amount	Water Amount	Cleaning Steps
			<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>3. Dip cans in mixture of 1 cup (8 ounces) of bleach per 5 gallons of water.</li> <li>4. Allow to air dry.</li> <li>5. Re-label cans with a permanent marker.</li> </ol>
Area or Item to be Cleaned	Bleach Amount	Water Amount	Cleaning Steps
Surfaces that do not soak up water and that may have touched floodwater [Examples: floors, stoves, sinks, certain toys, countertops, flatware, plates, and tools]	1 cup (8 ounces)	5 gallons	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Clean surface with soap and warm, clean water.</li> <li>2. Rinse with clean water.</li> <li>3. Sanitize using a mixture of 1 cup (8 ounces) of bleach to 5 gallons of water.</li> <li>4. Allow to air dry.</li> </ol>
Area or Item to be Cleaned	Bleach Amount	Water Amount	Cleaning Steps
Mold growth on hard surfaces [Examples: floors, stoves, sinks, certain toys, countertops, flatware, plates, and tools]	1 cup (8 ounces)	1 gallon	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Mix 1 cup (8 ounces) of bleach in 1 gallon of water.</li> <li>2. Wash surfaces with the bleach mixture.</li> <li>3. If surfaces are rough, scrub them with a stiff brush.</li> <li>4. Rinse surfaces with clean water.</li> <li>5. Allow to air dry.</li> </ol> <p>For more information see: <a href="#">Protect Yourself from Mold</a></p>

Be aware that flood water may be contaminated. For more information about how to protect yourself and your family, visit [Cleanup of Flood Water](#).

Content source: [Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, National Center for Emerging and Zoonotic Infectious Diseases \(NCEZID\), Division of Foodborne, Waterborne, and Environmental Diseases \(DFWED\)](#)