

Cleaning & Sanitizing

Cleaning and sanitizing your household after an emergency is important to help prevent the spread of illness and disease. First, wash surfaces with soap and warm, clean water to remove dirt and debris. Next, sanitize surfaces with household bleach. Carefully read and follow the safety instructions on any product you use and follow these safety guidelines:

- **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.

Use regular unscented 5%—6% household bleach and follow the instructions in the applicable chart.

Food Cans and Surfaces

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 (4.9 mL)	1 gallon	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Wash with soap and warm, clean water.2. Rinse with clean water.3. Sanitize using a mixture of 1 teaspoon (4.9 mL) of bleach per 1 gallon of clean water.4. Allow to air dry.
Food cans that are not bulging, open, or damaged	1 cup (240 mL)	5 gallons	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Remove can labels.2. Wash cans with soap and warm, clean water.3. Dip cans in mixture of 1 cup (240 mL) of bleach per 5 gallons of water.4. Allow to air dry.5. Re-label cans with a permanent marker.

Other Household Surfaces and Items

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 (240 mL)	5 gallons	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Clean surface with soap and warm, clean water.2. Rinse with clean water.3. Sanitize using a mixture of 1 cup (240 mL) of bleach to 5 gallons of water.4. Allow to air dry.

Mold Growth on Hard Surfaces

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 (240 mL)	1 gallon	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Mix 1 cup (240 mL) of bleach in 1 gallon of water.2. Wash surfaces with the bleach mixture.3. If surfaces are rough, scrub them with a stiff brush.4. Rinse surfaces with clean water.5. Allow to air dry.