

Dear Mr. Noe,

Thank you for the follow-up inquiry and letter about the use of bleach (sodium hypochlorite) for disinfection against SARS-CoV-2. As you noted, the CDC recommends the use of [EPA registered disinfectants on List N](#), and the CDC offers [additional guidance for the use of bleach](#) for disinfection in a diluted form. As a reference, CDC guidance for disinfecting building facilities states:

- **Recommend use of EPA-registered household disinfectant on List N**
Follow the instructions on the label to ensure safe and effective use of the product.
Many products recommend:
 - o Keeping surface wet for a period of time (see product label)
 - o Precautions such as wearing gloves and making sure you have good ventilation during use of the product.
- **Additionally, Diluted household bleach solutions may also be used if appropriate for the surface.**
 - o Check the label to see if your bleach is intended for disinfection, and ensure the product is not past its expiration date. Some bleaches, such as those designed for safe use on colored clothing or for whitening may not be suitable for disinfection.
 - o Unexpired household bleach will be effective against coronaviruses when properly diluted.
Follow manufacturer's instructions for application and proper ventilation. Never mix household bleach with ammonia or any other cleanser.
Leave solution on the surface for **at least 1 minute.**
To make a bleach solution, mix:
 - o 5 tablespoons (1/3rd cup) bleach per gallon of water
OR
 - o 4 teaspoons bleach per quart of water
- **Alcohol solutions with at least 70% alcohol may also be used.**

Importantly, bleach in a dilutable form is EPA-registered for at least 20 products in List N, at last count. It is also important that users follow the manufacturers' instructions for the dilution, surface type use, application method, and contact time to ensure effective use of bleach as a disinfectant.

Thank you for the inquiry.

Sincerely,

Jeff

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WASH Team

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