

Selecting Disinfectant for Child Care Centres

When selecting a disinfectant to use in the child care centre:

- Locate the product sheet and/or review the product label to understand how to safely and effectively use the product (expiry date, re-use claim, dilution).
 - When there is increased illness at the centre, it is recommended to use a product that has efficacy against norovirus. This will be stated on the label or product sheet.
- Make sure the product (other than bleach) has either a Drug Identification Number (DIN) or a Natural Product Number (NPN)
- Review what the manufacturer requires for contact time or the time the product has to stay wet on a surface. A long contact time may not be practical.
- If the product is mixed from concentrate:
 - Determine how the product must be diluted to ensure consistency (i.e. automated mixing devices or dispensers/measuring cup/test strips).
 - Post instructions for staff on proper handling and dilution of the disinfectant products. Mark bottles clearly
 - Contact the manufacturer to determine the shelf life of the product once it has been mixed to determine how often to re-mix the product
 - Test strips must be used and logged when verifying the concentration of the product. Ensure test strips are not expired.
- Review where the product will be used. If the product will also be used on food contact surfaces an extra rinse step may be required if it is not a food grade product
- Spray bottles are not recommended when applying disinfectant products
- Do not top up the product bottles. Once the product is used or discarded, clean the bottle out before re-filling. Topping up bottles will over or under dilute the product.

Reminders:

- Toys must be inspected for damage as well as cracked or broken parts as this may compromise cleaning. Any toy that is found to be damaged, cracked or broken must be discarded
- Toys and surfaces must be cleaned with warm soapy water before they are disinfected unless a one-step product is used
- Review the label of the cleaning and disinfection product used onsite and follow instructions especially for:
 - Whether pre-cleaning is required before cleaning and disinfection
 - Whether PPE is required when using the product
 - How to apply the product

- Contact time for disinfection (time the product must remain wet on the item)
- Whether a rinse step is required
- Expiration date. Do not use expired products
- Storage (store out of children's reach)
- Disinfection options include:
 - Use of a commercial dishwasher (can also be NSF certified)
 - Hospital grade, approved low-level disinfectant (follow manufacturer's instructions for dilution and contact time)
 - Bleach and water solution (see information below)
- If accelerated hydrogen peroxide is used, remember:
 - Pre-cleaning may be required
 - Follow the label for product use, dilution and handling
 - Follow the disinfection contact time or the time the product must stay wet on the surface
 - Rinse this product off of food contact surfaces (i.e. tables, countertops) as this is not a food grade product
- If bleach and water disinfectant is used, remember:
 - Clean the surface or toy with soap and water first, rinse and then apply the bleach and water solution. Allow to air dry.
 - Make a new bleach and water solution daily
 - Do not mix bleach with ammonia-based products as a toxic gas can form.

Other considerations

- If there are illnesses in the centre, cleaning and disinfection of surfaces and toys must be done daily or as often as necessary to minimize the spread of the illness.
- Storage bins for toys should also be cleaned along with the toys.
- Use toy cleaning time to inspect toys for safety and durability. Discard any unsafe, broken or questionable toys.