Cleaning and Sanitizing With Bleach after the Flood

First, wash surfaces with soap and warm, clean water to remove dirt and debris. Next, sanitize surfaces with household bleach.
- **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%—9% household bleach and follow the instructions in the chart below.

### Cleaning and sanitizing with bleach

<table>
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<th>Area or Item to be Cleaned</th>
<th>Amount of Bleach and Water to Mix</th>
<th>Cleaning Steps</th>
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| **Clean and Sanitize Food Cans and Surfaces**                                              |                                  | 1. Wash with soap and warm, clean water.  
2. Rinse with clean water.  
3. Sanitize using a mixture of 1 teaspoon of bleach per 1 gallon of clean water.  
4. Allow to air dry.                                                                 |
| Food surfaces that may have touched flood water [Examples: countertops, plates] Note: Throw away wooden cutting boards, baby bottle nipples, and pacifiers | 1 teaspoon bleach 1 gallon water |                                                                                                                                                                                                              |
| Food cans that are not bulging, open, or damaged                                           | 1 cup bleach 5 gallons water     | 1. Remove can labels.  
2. Wash cans with soap and warm, clean water.  
3. Dip cans in mixture of 1 cup of bleach per 5 gallons of water.  
4. Allow to air dry.  
5. Re–label cans with a permanent marker.                                                                                          |
| **Clean and Sanitize Other Household Surfaces and Items**                                 |                                  | 1. Clean surface with soap and warm, clean water.  
2. Rinse with clean water.  
3. Sanitize using a mixture of 1 cup of bleach to 5 gallons of water.  
4. Allow to air dry.                                                                                                                  |
| Non-food surfaces that do not soak up water and that may have touched floodwater [Examples: floors, sinks, certain toys, and tools] | 1 cup bleach 5 gallons water     |                                                                                                                                                                                                              |
| **Clean Mold Growth Off Hard Surfaces**                                                    |                                  | 1. Mix 1 cup 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.                                                                                                                  |
| Mold growth on hard surfaces [Examples: floors, stoves, sinks, certain toys, countertops, flatware, plates, and tools] | 1 cup bleach 1 gallon water      |                                                                                                                                                                                                              |

https://www.cdc.gov/disasters/bleach.html

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