

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

Area or Item to be Cleaned	Amount of Bleach and Water to Mix		Cleaning Steps
Clean and Sanitize Food Cans and Surfaces			
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	<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 of bleach per 1 gallon of clean water. 4. Allow to air dry.
Food cans that are not bulging, open, or damaged	1 cup bleach	5 gallons water	<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 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			
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	<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 of bleach to 5 gallons of water. 4. Allow to air dry.
Clean Mold Growth Off Hard Surfaces			
Mold growth on hard surfaces [Examples: floors, stoves, sinks, certain toys, countertops, flatware, plates, and tools]	1 cup bleach	1 gallon water	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 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.

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