

Personal Service Facilities: Using Bleach Solutions for Disinfection

WHAT YOU SHOULD KNOW

Alberta's 2002 Health Standards and Guidelines for personal service settings list 1:9 dilution of household bleach solutions as an example of an intermediate-level disinfectant. However, this kind of solution is not a registered disinfectant in Canada, and as such it does not come with instructions for use as a disinfectant.

Environmental Health Officers prefer that operators in personal service settings use registered disinfectants to decontaminate their instruments. The use of bleach solution as an intermediate disinfectant should be discussed with your local public health inspector, and operators may only use it when the following steps are taken.

PREPARING A 1:9 BLEACH SOLUTION

- 1 part household bleach (typically at 5.25% sodium hypochlorite or greater)
- 9 parts potable tap water

STEPS TO TAKE WHEN USING BLEACH SOLUTIONS AS A DISINFECTANT

1. Instruments must be fully cleaned, rinsed and then dried before immersion.
2. Instruments must be immersed for a minimum of 10 minutes, but no longer than 30 minutes.
3. 1:9 household bleach solutions must be changed daily since their efficacy and strength cannot be verified by the operator or inspector.
4. Containers for 1:9 household bleach solutions must be cleaned, rinsed and dried every time the old solution has been discarded.

DISINFECTING PEDICURE BASINS

- Basins, screens and fans must be removed and cleaned after each client service.
- After cleaning, all components must be rinsed and dried
- Basins, screens and fans must be disinfected with the 1:9 bleach solution for 10 minutes.
- If the basin has pipes, the bleach solution must be circulated for 10 minutes.
- After disinfection the basin should be rinsed before the next customer use.

FACILITY CONSIDERATIONS

- Containers used for disinfection should be located near the sink so that staff are not tempted to place dirty tools directly into the bleach solutions.
- Ensure staff and clients are protected from fumes when they handle the product. Seek a registered disinfectant if your facility cannot adequately remove chemical odours.

For more information, please contact your nearest Environmental Public Health office.

*Edmonton Main Office
Calgary Main Office
Lethbridge Main Office*

*780-735-1800
403-943-2295
403-388-6689*

*Grande Prairie Main Office
Red Deer Main Office
www.albertahealthservices.ca/eph.asp*

*780-513-7517
403-356-6366*

3EPHB-14-002
Created: Nov/14