

# What is the Difference? - Clean, Sanitize, & Disinfect

**CLEAN** This is to remove visibly soiled areas with soap and water, which can be accomplished by mixing a few drops of soap with water in a spray bottle. **Be sure to label the mixture as “Soapy Water.” All surfaces should be cleaned before being sanitized or disinfected.**

**SANITIZE** Sanitizing agents reduce the number of bacteria and viruses to a safe level, so **use one of the following sanitizers on tables, kitchen and classroom surfaces, eating utensils, and toys:**

## Liquid Chlorine Bleach

Mix bleach with cold water to a strength of 50-200 ppm according to label instructions. **Use chlorine test strips daily** to measure the strength of the solution. Bleach solutions only need to be mixed again when the strength is below 50 ppm. **TEST EACH BATCH – BLEACH CAN BECOME LESS POTENT OVER TIME.** Bleach solution must be left on the surface for **at least 1 minute** or according to label directions to be effective.

## Quaternary Ammonium Compounds (QUAT)

Mix as directed and confirm the solution is 200-400 ppm with Quat test strips. Check the label to be sure that it is recommended for food surfaces and utensils. Do not mix with soap or detergents – it will deactivate the ammonium compound or chlorine bleach. Check the label and directions to see how long it must be in contact with the surface to ensure sanitization. **Quaternary Compounds usually require 1 minute of contact time.**

**Check with your health department for other approved sanitizers.**

**DISINFECT** Disinfection involves the use of a chemical agent to destroy harmful bacteria and other microbes to prevent infection from non-food surfaces and equipment. **Use disinfectants on diapering surfaces and toileting areas.**

## Liquid Chlorine Bleach

Mix bleach with cold water according to directions on bleach label. Disinfectant strength is 2400 ppm. Bleach solution must be left on the surface for a minimum contact time to be effective. Follow directions on bleach label for contact time and rinsing instructions.

## Quaternary Ammonium Compounds (QUAT)

Mix as directed and confirm solution is at least 400 ppm with Quat test strips. To be used as a disinfectant, the compound must be left on the surface for a **MINIMUM OF 10 MINUTES**, or per manufacturer’s directions.

**Check with your health department for other approved disinfectants.**

No matter what the solution is, all containers **MUST BE LABELED** with the **TYPE OF SOLUTION** (i.e. bleach solution), the **CONCENTRATION** (50-200 ppm - sanitizing), and **WHERE IT SHOULD BE USED** (i.e. diapering areas or kitchen/food preparation areas).

