



Hepatitis A Virus Disinfection Guidelines

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The hepatitis A virus is usually transmitted by the fecal-oral route, either through person-to-person contact or consumption of contaminated food or beverages. Contamination can occur when infected persons do not wash their hands properly after going to the bathroom and then touch other objects or food items. Surfaces that are frequently touched should be cleaned and sanitized often.

Disinfection of Contaminated Surfaces

The hepatitis A virus can be inactivated by many common disinfecting chemicals, including hypochlorite (bleach) and quaternary ammonium formulations containing 23% HCl, found in many toilet bowl cleaners.

Chlorine Bleach: Mix and use the chlorine solution promptly. Solution can be created with 1 and 2/3 cups bleach in 1 gallon water. Allow 1 minute of contact time on the surface being disinfected, and then rinse with water. Discard any unused diluted mixtures. This solution can be used for stainless steel, food/mouth contact items, tile floors, nonporous surfaces, counters, sinks and toilets.

Other Disinfectants: To determine if a product is effective against hepatitis A, review the product label or specification sheet and ensure it states effective against hepatitis A. The product name can be searched in the Environmental Protection Agency's registered product database at: <https://iaspub.epa.gov/apex/pesticides/f?p=PPLS:1>

Remember

- Wear gloves and protect clothing while cleaning
- Use chemicals in well-ventilated areas
- Ensure the correct contact time is being met for the disinfectant
- Avoid contact between incompatible chemicals
- For surfaces that are corroded or damaged by bleach, use another product effective against hepatitis A.
- Replace bottles of opened bleach every 30 days and discard any unused diluted mixtures.