

Minnesota Department of Health Fact Sheet
DISASTER QUICK TIPS: USING BLEACH

Use Caution

First, scrub the item with soap and safe water and rinse well. Bleach can help kill germs and mold on “nonporous” surfaces without spaces and cracks. Use bleach very carefully - too much bleach can burn your skin and lungs.

Quick Tips:

- Keep bleach out of children’s reach;
- Wear gloves and old clothes that cover your skin;
- Read the warning label on the bleach bottle;
- Open windows and doors and use a fan to blow air outside;
- Do not use bleach on “porous” surfaces like carpet or ceiling tile – throw them out; and
- Do not mix bleach with dish soap or other products.

Note: MDH has detailed fact sheets on these topics. See back page.

To Kill Germs on Dishes and Surfaces that Hold Food

Use this bleach mix on “non-porous” hard surfaces that hold food, like counter tops, dishes and eating utensils. This mix will help kill germs without hurting your skin or lungs.

- First scrub with soap and safe water and rinse with safe water.
- Mix **1 tablespoon** of bleach to a gallon of safe water.
- Wipe counter tops and soak dishes and utensils with this bleach mix and allow to air dry.

To Kill Mold on Surfaces Not in Contact with Food or Mouth

A stronger bleach mix can be used on “non-porous” hard surfaces like walls, floors, and tables to help kill mold. This mix can hurt your skin and lungs. Do not use it for dishes, children’s toys, or surfaces that hold food.

- First scrub with soap and water and rinse with water.
- Mix **¼ - ½ cup** bleach in a gallon of water.
- Wipe surfaces with this bleach mix and allow to air dry.

When in doubt, throw it out!



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MDH Environmental Health Contacts:**Asbestos**

Asbestos and Lead Compliance: 651-201-4620

Web Site: www.health.state.mn.us/divs/eh/asbestos

Carbon Monoxide and Mold

MDH Indoor Air Quality: 651-201-4601 or 800-798-9050

Email: health.indoorair@state.mn.us

Web Site: www.health.state.mn.us/divs/eh/air

Cleaning Up and Food Safety

MDH Food, Beverage and Lodging: 651-201-4500

Email: health.foodlodging@state.mn.us

Web Site: www.health.state.mn.us/foodsafety

Drinking Water**Public Water**

MDH Drinking Water Protection: 651-201-4700

Email: health.drinkingwater@state.mn.us

Web Site: www.health.state.mn.us/water

Wells and Well Water

MDH Well Management: 651-201-4600 or 1-800-383-9808

Email: health.wells@state.mn.us

Web Site: www.health.state.mn.us/divs/eh/wells

MDH Environmental Health Division Emergency Program Contacts:

www.health.state.mn.us/divs/eh/contactus.htm

MDH Environmental Health Flood information Web site:

www.health.state.mn.us/floods

If you require this document in another format such as large print, Braille, or cassette tape, contact 651-201-5000 or 1-800-657-3908. For deaf or hard of hearing TTY: 651-201-5797



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