



**Cherie Berry**  
Commissioner of Labor

Floodwaters may be contaminated with sewage and decaying animal and human remains. Disinfection of hands, clothing, tools/equipment and surfaces in work areas is critical in disease prevention.

### Hand Decontamination

- Use soap and clean water whenever possible or a waterless, alcohol-based hand rub.
- Wash hands often, especially after cleanup or decontamination work; before preparing/eating food; and after toilet use.
- Rinse completely; dry with a clean towel or air dry.

### Clothing, Tool/Equipment Decontamination

- It is preferable to use soap and clean water when available.
- If only contaminated water is available, mix ¼ cup bleach per gallon of water.
- Immerse objects in solution for 10 minutes; if clothing, gently agitate periodically.
- Transfer objects to hand wash solution for 10 minutes; if clothing, gently agitate periodically.
- Allow clothes and tools/equipment to thoroughly air dry before reuse.

QC10

### Severe Surface Decontamination

For decontaminating only the most seriously affected surfaces.

- Mix 1½ cups of bleach per gallon of water.
- Douse surfaces with heavy contamination and allow to sit for three minutes.
- Wipe the contamination from the surface with a paper towel and douse the surface again but use the hand wash solution.
- Wipe off residual contamination with a paper towel.

### Important Considerations

- Use gloves and eye protection.
- Prepare bleach solutions daily and allow to stand for at least 30 minutes before use.
- Label containers “Bleach-disinfected water, DO NOT DRINK.”
- CAUTION: Do not mix bleach with ammonia products.

### Warning:

- Bleach can damage firefighters’ turnout gear and other PPE and equipment; consult manufacturer.
- Do not immerse electrical or battery operated tools/equipment in solutions; clean exterior with a rag soaked with soap and water or disinfectant solution.

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