

# Hepatitis A Disinfection Guidelines

Hepatitis A is a liver infection caused by the hepatitis A virus. Highly contagious, 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. These surfaces include:

- Faucets
- Sinks
- Toilets and Commodes
- Light Switch Plates
- Kitchen Surfaces
- Phones
- Tables and Chairs
- High Chairs
- Doorknobs
- Keyboards
- Wheelchairs and Walkers
- Linens and Bedding
- Recreation Equipment
- Railings
- Remote Controls
- Ice Machines

## Disinfection for Exposed Surfaces

**Chlorine Bleach:** Mix 1 and 2/3 cups bleach per 1 gallon of water (5000ppm). Use the solution promptly to disinfect stainless steel, food/mouth contact items, tile floors, nonporous surfaces, counters, sinks and toilets.

Allow 1 minute of contact time with surface and then rinse with water due to high bleach concentration. Discard any unused diluted mixtures immediately after use.

**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 or norovirus. 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 your clothing.
- Use chemicals in well-ventilated areas.
- Avoid contact between incompatible chemicals.
- For surfaces that are corroded or damaged by bleach, use another product effective against HAV.

## Steps to Cleaning Up Vomit or Feces

- Block off area immediately.
- Put on personal protective equipment (PPE), including two sets of gloves, masks, eye protection or face shield, and gown.
- Clean up visible debris using disposable absorbent material (paper towels or other type of disposable cloths). Handle contaminated material as little as possible and with minimal agitation to reduce aerosolization.
- Discard soiled items carefully in a durable plastic bag.
- Disinfect area and objects surrounding the contamination with an appropriate disinfectant effective against hepatitis A (see box to the left).
- Take off outer set of gloves (leaving inner set of gloves on), gown and mask, in that order, and discard before exiting the clean-up area.
- Place discarded PPE in a durable plastic bag.
- Wearing the inner set of gloves, transport bag to a secure trash container; do not allow the bag to contact clothing.
- Dispose of inner gloves.
- Always wash your hands for 20 seconds with warm, soapy water after handling any contaminated material, trash, or waste.

## Surface-Specific Tips

### Toys

- Toys that enter a child’s mouth must be disinfected, rinsed thoroughly, and air dried or run through a dishwasher at the highest temperature setting.
- Remove visible debris on softer toys that have been soiled and launder at the highest temperature setting. Discard if necessary.

### Linens, Clothing, Textiles

- Keep contaminated and uncontaminated items separate.
- Wash in a pre-wash cycle, then use a regular wash cycle with detergent, and dry at the highest temperature setting.

### Food Surfaces

- After disinfection, rinse food prep area with water.
- Prevent chemical contact with food during cleaning.
- Secure chemicals away from food after cleaning.

### Medical Equipment

- Medical equipment used for infected patients should be either dedicated to that room or be thoroughly disinfected upon removal from the room.
- Selection of cleaning agent should be consistent with the equipment manufacturer’s recommendations.

## Additional Information

[www.odh.ohio.gov/hepa](http://www.odh.ohio.gov/hepa)  
[www.cdc.gov/hepatitis/hav/index.htm](http://www.cdc.gov/hepatitis/hav/index.htm)

Local Health Department information:  
<https://www.odh.ohio.gov/en/localhealthdistricts/localhealthdistricts>