



TEXAS

Health and Human
Services

**Consumer Protection Division
Policy, Standards, And Quality Assurance Section
Public Sanitation And Retail Food Safety Unit**

**Texas Department of State
Health Services**

EMERGENCY SHELTER SANITATION GUIDELINES

It is critical to clean and sanitize articles and surfaces to reduce the spread of infections to residents and staff. The following guidelines are designed to reduce the risks of infections in emergency shelters.

Cleaning and sanitizing is a 4 step process. To be effective these 4 steps must be followed in order:

1. Wash with water and soap.
2. Rinse with clear water.
3. Use sanitizing solutions;
 - a. Small articles such as toys must be soaked in the solution for a minimum of 10 minutes
 - b. Spray the surface of large items such as countertops, railings, and cots, with the solution until the entire surface is coated with the liquid.
4. Allow the article or surface to air dry.

A sanitizing solution may be:

- A self-made solution, prepared as follows:
 - One tablespoon of regular strength unscented liquid household bleach to 1 gallon of water. Use for sanitizing items such as cots, crib rails, toys, countertops, and eating utensils; or
 - On-fourth (1/4) cup of regular strength liquid household bleach to 1 gallon of water. Use for sanitizing surfaces such as bathrooms and diaper-changing tables.
 - Prepare each solution daily and place it in a closed and labeled container., or
- A commercial product that meets the Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) standards for "hospital grade" germicides (solutions that kill germs). Follow product label directions for application. If the label warns of any toxic substances do not use on surfaces likely to be "mouthed" by children, such as crib rails and toys.
- Any object or surface is soiled with bodily fluids should immediately be washed, rinsed and sanitized.
- Diaper changing surfaces should be washed, cleaned and sanitized after each use. However, if changing diapers on a number of children consecutively, you may cover the surface with a non-absorbent paper liner that is disposed of between each diaper change or wipe the surface dry after approximately 2 minutes of contact with the sanitizing solution