BLEACH USE IN KITCHENS

GENERAL PLAN/APPROACH:

The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), a US government agency, tests if a product kills germs and checks if it poses unreasonable health hazards. Only products with EPA registration numbers on the label can make public health claims. If a product is not registered as a sanitizer or disinfectant with the EPA, it can only be relied on for cleaning and not for killing germs.

Bleach used by SOHS must be an EPA registered pesticide. It must not contain additives for fragrance purposes. It is a violation of federal law to use these products in a manner inconsistent with their labeling.

Bleach can irritate the lungs and mucous membranes. It can damage skin, eyes and clothing. For staff who mix bleach solutions, contact with full strength bleach can be harmful. Bleach must be diluted to produce a use solution. The diluted solution poses less health risk to workers.

Exposure of children to bleach hazards is highly unlikely as children are prohibited from entering kitchen areas.

This procedure presents instructions for the use of chlorine bleach products in center kitchens only for sanitizing utensils, equipment, facilities, areas and food processing surfaces by kitchen staff.

OREGON OSHA
OAR 437-002-1910.1200(H) HEALTH HAZARD CRITERIA

OREGON CHILD CARE DIVISION:
414-300-0180 SANITATION

OREGON HEALTH AUTHORITY
CRITERIA FOR DISINFECTANTS AND SANITIZERS
12/21/2014
PROCEDURES:

All staff must read the Safety Data Sheet and the EPA label for the specific bleach product in use before using it for the first time. All safety precautions must be heeded. If there are any questions or uncertainties regarding its use please contact your Supervisor or the SOHS Safety Compliance Manager.

Definitions

Disinfectant: a chemical that destroys disease-causing pathogens or other harmful microorganisms. Disinfectants are generally stronger or more toxic than sanitizers and are used where there are more infectious organisms to control like in bathroom and toilet areas or on blood-borne pathogens and body fluid cleanups.

Sanitizer: agent that reduces the number of bacterial contaminants to safe levels as judged by public health requirements. In child care settings, sanitizing will kill enough germs to reduce the risk of becoming ill from contact with the surface. Sanitizers are used in all classroom and general settings.

Cleaning: the process that physically removes debris from the surface or area by scrubbing, washing and rinsing. It is generally accomplished with soap or detergent and water.

Bleach: a chemical product that cleans, whitens and disinfects. Chlorine bleach contains the chemical sodium hypochlorite as the active ingredient. This is the common household “bleach” that is used in SOHS kitchens. Bleach may contain 5.25, 6.0, 8.3 or 8.5 percent sodium hypochlorite.

Dilution

1. An eyewash is required to be available in all center kitchens for emergency use if bleach gets in someone’s eyes.
2. Ventless safety goggles are required to be worn when mixing/diluting bleach for use.
3. See chart on the following page for determining amounts of bleach to add to water.
4. Chlorine test strips are required to test each batch of solution to confirm the concentration is between 50 and 100 ppm.
5. Dilute bleach with cool water and do not use more than the recommended amount of bleach.
6. Make a fresh bleach dilution daily. Dump any diluted bleach solution into a sink at the end of each day
7. Add bleach to the water rather than water to bleach to reduce fumes.
8. Make sure the room is well ventilated.
9. Never mix or store ammonia with bleach or products that contain bleach.
10. Label any new container with a compliant secondary label.
Mixing Bleach and Water for Food Surface Sanitizing

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Water</th>
<th>Bleach Strength*</th>
<th>Bleach Strength*</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>5.25 – 6.25%</td>
<td>8.25 %</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1 Gallon</td>
<td>2 Teaspoons</td>
<td>1 Teaspoon</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1 Quart</td>
<td>½ Teaspoon</td>
<td>¼ Teaspoon</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Use only plain unscented bleach that lists the percent (%) strength on the manufacturer’s label. Read the label on the bleach bottle to determine the bleach strength. For example, Sodium Hypochlorite…6.25% or 8.25%.

Use:

1. These use directions do not replace the use directions on the label. They are only repeated here to help users understand them.
2. Apply the bleach dilution after cleaning the surface with soap or detergent and rinsing with water.
3. Bleach must remain on all surfaces being sanitized for 2 minutes or air dry.
4. Disposable cloths are used in a bucket of bleach and water solution. They must be stored in sanitizer between uses to prevent microbial growth.
5. At the end of each day, the cloths are disposed of and the bleach water is dumped.

Storage and Disposal:

Store bleach in a cabinet or room secured with a lock or child-proof latch. Bleach loses its sanitizing strength 6 months after purchase. Disposal is usually not necessary. Empty product containers are non-refillable and may be placed in trash bags and put in the trash.