



## Making Your Own Disinfecting Wipes Is Easy and Only Takes A Few Minutes to Do

For effective disinfection, clean the surface you'd like to disinfect first. Dirty surfaces make disinfection less effective. It's okay to use soap and water for cleaning but remember this will not disinfect the surface.

To make disinfecting wipes, you'll need to make a disinfecting solution, a water tight container to store the solution, and cloths or paper towels.

There are three types of disinfecting agents: **bleach-based**, **quaternary ammonium-based**, called "quats", and **alcohol-based**. Bleach-based solutions can discolor surfaces or fabrics and, if the solution is too strong, irritate your skin. It's best to wear gloves and have plenty of ventilation when using bleach. Quats- and alcohol-based solutions typically do not discolor fabrics; alcohol-based solutions are safe for disinfecting electronics such as cell phones and computer keyboards. Review your device's manual before cleaning. In all cases, disinfecting solution should have 10 minutes of contact time on the surface you are disinfecting before wiping off.

**Bleach-based** disinfectant recipe from the CDC: <https://tinyurl.com/CDC-Cleaning-Sanitizing>



1/3 cup (5 Tablespoons) of bleach to 1 Gallon of water

or

4 teaspoons of bleach to 1 Quart of water

Bleach-solutions lose effectiveness over time, only make up quantities for 1-2 days use at a time. Mix your solution & pour over the wipes in the container you'll be using to store and dispense.

Make disposable wipes with a roll of paper towels, use higher quality products, the best are "shop" towels made for heavy-duty use. Cut the roll of paper in half (bread knife works well), put cut roll into the container, pour your solution over it, and then remove the inner cardboard roll. If you choose to use non-disposable cloths for wipes, keep them immersed in your solution and launder them regularly. If you need more portability, place a few saturated wipes in a zip-lock bag.

For **alcohol-based** disinfecting wipes use at least 70% alcohol for your solution. **Quats-based** disinfectants should be mixed according to the manufacturer's instructions.

Here's a list of EPA (Environmental Protection Agency) approved products listed by product names: <https://tinyurl.com/NY-COVID-Disinfectants>

EPA's list can be found here: <https://tinyurl.com/EPA-COVID-disinfectants>