



Environmental Health Division  
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## Wiping Cloths & Chemical Sanitizing

Section 14-1.117 of the New York State Sanitary Code requires the use of Wiping Cloths in Food Service. <https://regs.health.ny.gov/content/section-14-1117-wiping-cloths>

Keeping food preparation and customer service areas clean and sanitized are important for your customer's well-being. It's important to use wiping cloths properly to avoid cross-contamination! You should use different wiping cloths for different purposes; here's how to do it:

- Clean, dry cloths used for wiping food spills from tableware, plates or bowls served to the consumer. These wiping cloths are to be used only for this purpose and **not** to be used in the kitchen. It's also acceptable to use a cleaning product on a surface before it's sanitized, but it's important to sanitize **after** cleaning.
- Moist cloths used for cleaning non-food-contact surfaces of equipment such as counters, dining table tops and shelves are to be stored in a sanitizing solution between uses and are to be used only for this purpose.
- Moist cloths used for wiping food-contact surfaces in contact with raw animal foods and wiping food spills on kitchenware and food-contact surfaces of equipment are to be used **only** for this purpose and shall be kept separate from cloths used for other purposes! These cloths must be stored in a sanitizing solution between uses.

### ONLY the following NSF approved sanitizing agents are allowed

Chlorine bleach loses strength (efficiency) over time while quaternary ammonium is more stable over time. For this reason, it's advisable to prepare & test chlorine bleach solutions periodically to ensure there's sufficient sanitizing power.

	Chlorine Bleach	Iodine	Quaternary Ammonium (Quats)
<b>Minimum concentration</b> ---for immersion	50 ppm✦	12.5 ppm	200 ppm
---for spray, wiping cloths or cleaning in place	100 ppm△	25 ppm	400 ppm
<b>Temperature of solution</b>	75 °F – 115 °F	75 °F – 120 °F	Above 75 °F
<b>Time for sanitizing</b> ---for immersion	1 minute	1 minute	1 minute, however some products require longer contact time; read label
---for spray, wiping cloths or cleaning in place	follow manufacturers instructions	follow manufacturers instructions	
<b>Indication of strength of solution</b>	Test kit required	Amber color indicates presence. Use test kit to determine concentration	Test kit required. Follow label instructions closely

- ✦ 1/2 tsp. of 5.25% sodium hypochlorite (chlorine bleach)
- △ 1 tsp. of 5.25% sodium hypochlorite (chlorine bleach)
- ✦ 1/4 tsp. of 6.0% sodium hypochlorite (chlorine bleach)
- △ 1/2 tsp. of 6.0% sodium hypochlorite (chlorine bleach)

1/2oz (2 tsp. or 1capful) of 5.25% sodium hypochlorite (chlorine bleach)  
 1 tsp. of 6.0% sodium hypochlorite chlorine bleach)

in 1 gallon water = 50 ppm  
 in 1 gallon water = 100 ppm  
 in 1 gallon water = 50 ppm  
 in 1 gallon water = 100 ppm

in 1 gallon water = 200 ppm  
 in 1 gallon water = 200 ppm

ppm = parts per million