

# TT Cleaning and Disinfection Policy

## Rationale

At Treasure Tree we are committed to provide an environment that is clean and safe to the children and the educator. We understand that the cleaning and disinfecting are two different but important processes to minimise the risk of illness to spread in the home based setting.

## Definitions

### Cleaning

Soap or detergent and water are used to remove the dirt and grease that can be seen.

Although thorough cleaning removes dirt and grease so that most healthy children are not at risk of illness, it does not kill bacteria or prevent the build-up of dirt and soil that cannot be seen. It is possible that something may look clean but still spread illness.

### Disinfecting

Chemicals are used to remove unseen dirt and kill bacteria. Disinfectants are needed where faeces and mucus are most likely to be found, and where blood or vomit has been spilled. Toys and play areas may also need to be cleaned and disinfected when children in center become ill.

## Guidelines

- Use hot water and change it often – detergent works best in hot water, but will not work if the water is dirty.
- Use a clean cloth and change the cloth at the end of each day. Cloths can be washed with detergent in hot water, boiled or soaked in a suitable disinfectant and thoroughly dried each day.
- Do not use tea towels for cleaning or use cleaning cloths on the floor.
- Use different cloths for different cleaning jobs – colour code the cloths

Treasure Tree recommend “ Bleach” as Disinfectant

Why we recommend "Bleach" as a Disinfectant

Micro-organisms (germs) such as Giardia and Cryptosporidium (protozoa), salmonella (bacteria) and Norwalk-like viruses (a virus) can cause outbreaks of diseases and most of them are resistant to most disinfectants, we recommend that only disinfectants containing the chemical hypochlorite are used or stored on the premises.

Hypochlorite has long been recognised as having outstanding disinfection properties, and is widely available, cheap, and widely used in homes, schools, hospitals, swimming pools and in drinking water supplies.

Hypochlorite is available under many brand names including:

- “No Frills Bleach”, “Janola”, “Brite Bleach”, “White Magic”, “Hypersol”, “Exit Mould”, “Hypersol”

And some toilet cleaners, including:

- “Harpic Plus Bleach Liquid Toilet Cleaner”, “Janola Bleach Powder Toilet Gel”

Bleach needs to be stored securely and out of reach of children.

Different strengths of bleach are needed in different situations, depending on the amount of risk. High risk areas are those where there have been spills of blood or vomit, or where there are likely to be faeces or body waste.

The following tables are used to make diluted bleach

High risk areas to make (0.5% hypochlorite) bleach:

Strength of bleach before dilution		Quantity of bleach	Quantity of water	Total volume of diluted solution
% hypochlorite	g/100ml hypochlorite			
0.5%	0.5g/100ml	Use undiluted	Nil	Use undiluted
2%	2g/100ml	100ml	300ml	400ml
3%	3g/100ml	50ml	250ml	300ml
4%	4g/100ml	50ml	350ml	400ml
5%	5g/100ml	50ml	450ml	500ml

General areas to make (0.1% hypochloride) bleach:

Strength of bleach before dilution		Quantity of bleach	Quantity of water	Total volume of diluted solution
% hypochlorite	g/100ml hypochlorite			
0.5%	0.5g/100ml	50ml	450ml	500ml
2%	2g/100ml	25ml	475ml	500ml
3%	3g/100ml	10ml	290ml	300ml
4%	4g/100ml	10ml	390ml	400ml
5%	5g/100ml	10ml	490ml	500ml

**To increase the amount of solution made:**

Double (or triple) the amount of bleach and water added.

**Instructions:**

- Hypochlorite solutions lose strength so prepare enough for each day or store unused dilution in a cool dark place.
- Read the label to see how it should be used and follow the instructions
- Be aware of allergies to bleach and wear gloves if you need to.
- Use bleach carefully. It cannot be mixed with other chemicals or cleaners and will attack some surfaces, so do not use it on metal or carpet.

- Where there have been spills of blood or other body fluids the most effective way to disinfect is to leave the bleach on the surface for 30 minutes. If this cannot be done, wear gloves and wipe up the spill using a cloth soaked in bleach solution made for high-risk situations, then throw away the cloth. Wipe over the area again using another cloth soaked in the bleach solution, then clean the area with water and detergent.
- Store bleach safely away from children.

### **Cleaning of dishes and other items used to prepare, serve or eat food**

Only use the cycle on the dishwasher with the washing temperature of 60°C or higher.

Rinse and disinfect the dishes in hot water by:

- Placing in clean boiling water for 30 seconds, or in clean hot water that is at least 77 degree Celsius for two minutes
- Make sure children are kept out of the area until the water has drained away
- Keep the dishes separate from each other while they are rinsed
- Remove them immediately and let the air dry them. Never use a tea towel or cloth to dry or polish the dishes after they have been cleaned.

### **Cleaning of play equipment and toys**

- **Wooden toys**  
Wipe using suitable detergent and disinfect with 0.5% hypochlorite
- **Hard toys, some waterproof soft toys, plastic books**  
Wash in hot water and detergent, then rinse in hot water.
- **Soft absorbent toys (teddy bears, fabric books)**  
Machine wash in hot or warm water. These toys must be completely dry before they are stored or used again.
- **Large waterproof toys (ride-on toys)**  
Wash with a clean sponge or cloth using warm water and detergent

Playdough equipment and toys that are placed in the mouth, chewed or sucked should be washed daily. Dress-up clothes should be washed in hot water once a week. Other toys that are handled frequently, such as books, need to be wiped clean regularly whenever they are soiled.

Comfort toys that children sleep will be brought from home and Educator will encourage parents to clean them often to ensure the cleanness of the toy. The comfort toys are not shared with other children and kept with their bedding.

Playdough will not be used for more than a day. Store made up playdough in the fridge for no more than 5 days, taking out only what is needed each day.

### **Body washing facility**

Because the home bathroom are not designed for the exclusive use of attending children, educators need to make sure the facilities are kept safe for children to use.

- Clean the bathroom floor water every day before children arriving the service

- Bath/shower needs to be cleaned and disinfect at least every week using detergent and disinfectant
- Bath/shower needs to be cleaned and disinfect immediately after washing a soiled or sick child

### **Sleep area**

- Clean individual bedding needs to be provided for each children and that is sufficient to keep them warm
- Educator may ask parents to bring their child's own bedding to hygienically stored onsite and individually labeled
- Educator may ask parents to bring the bedding back to home for wash on regular basis or educator may wash the bedding on site following the laundering policy and procedures
- If the furniture or items for children to sleep on is not permanently set up, educator need to make sure the furniture or items are hygienically stored.

### **Sandpits if applicable**

- Cover the sandpit when it is not in use.
- Rake the sandpit every morning to remove rubbish and other unsafe matter before it is used.
- Clean sandpit by washing water through the sand. A good fall of rain or a hose will do this.
- Dig out the sand and replace it if it has mixed with a large amount of soil whenever needed.