

CitriGuard® II

Technical Bulletin 2



Sodium Hypochlorite - Chlorine From Bleach As a Disinfectant

Chlorine is a strong antimicrobial agent. In its pure form, it is a gas that is highly poisonous and difficult to handle. Thus, most uses depend on sodium hypochlorite which is available as a powder or dissolved in water. The most convenient and often used source is household bleach.

A disinfecting solution containing .1% to 1% chlorine is often recommended by public health personnel. They point out that such a solution can be made by diluting common household bleach with water. Such a fluid is inexpensive, but represents a number of drawbacks for users:

- ◆ Bleach is not registered by the EPA, therefore users accept total risk for proper mixing, storage, and use. Safety and efficacy are not backed by a manufacturer.
- ◆ Chlorine is an unstable, corrosive and toxic chemical. If not sufficiently diluted, it will damage surfaces and can harm users.
- ◆ Chlorine is not effective against the more resistant bacteria and is not tuberculocidal.
- ◆ Chlorine is inactivated in the presence of organic material. Surfaces must be carefully pre-cleaned of all body fluids and tissue.
- ◆ Chlorine degrades rapidly when diluted, therefore it must be re-mixed often or tested for concentration before each use.

CitriGuard® II is a new generation quaternary disinfectant / cleaner that is designed to be bactericidal, virucidal, tuberculocidal, and fungicidal. It meets OSHA requirements for a disinfectant and is EPA registered. CitriGuard® II is ready to use, no dilution is necessary. It is non-toxic and non-corrosive, contains no phenolics, glutaraldehyde, nor sodium hypochlorite.

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