

COMPARISON OF BLEACH TO QUATERNARY AMMONIA PRODUCTS

BLEACH Active ingredient: sodium hypochlorite (8.0-8.25%)	QUATERNARY AMMONIA PRODUCTS Active ingredient: ammonium chloride (example: dimethyl benzyl ammonium chloride)
Low level hospital disinfectant	Level of disinfectant varies by formulation; must read the label
Corrosive to metal	Not corrosive to metal
Chlorine = Chlorine	All quats not equal
Stains clothing	Does not stain clothing
Some bothered by odor	Some bothered by odor
Do not need to rinse; no residual	May need to rinse; may leave residual
Need to mix fresh daily	Follow label instructions – often do not need to mix daily; stable shelf life
Should not be used as a cleaning agent; because affected by dirt or body fluids, must apply to clean surface to disinfect	Some formulations include cleaning agents; however, may need a second application to use as a disinfectant (follow label instructions)
Meets OSHA requirements for bloodborne pathogens at 1:100 solution	May not meet OSHA requirements for bloodborne pathogens; varies by formulation
Inexpensive	Price varies

