

## FAQ

# HOW TO DILUTE YOUR DISINFECTANT FOR BETTER RESULTS

The five critical security elements of disinfecting should serve as the foundation for any training program focused on infection prevention protocol. One of these five critical security elements is proper dilution. To better understand the importance of proper dilution and how to achieve it, we have compiled some important frequently asked questions. If you have any specific questions, please contact an expert at Charlotte Products by emailing [experts@charlotteproducts.com](mailto:experts@charlotteproducts.com).

### **Where can I find the dilution ratio I need to follow?**

Everything you need to follow the five critical security elements of disinfecting, including your dilution ratio, is printed directly on the label of your disinfectant product.

### **How do I ensure I have the right dilution results?**

The best way to do this is with a quality, wall-mounted dilution control cabinet. Relying on the “glug glug” method of pouring disinfectant and water into a bucket will not cut it. Wall-mounted dispensing systems give you a head start because they are designed for efficiency of use. These systems offer the most accurate dilution results by controlling the amount of product that is dispensed. They make pouring and mixing simple.

### **How can I be sure my product is at the proper dilution rate?**

PPM paper is the best way to check your dilution rates quickly. PPM stands for parts per million. This little strip of paper can be dipped into your solution and it will show you the actual number and provide a visual reference matched to the colour-coded system. PPM paper is based on the active ingredient in your disinfectant (quats, hydrogen peroxide or chlorine bleach). Your product will tell you a PPM range, and you should match that PPM range with your testing strips.

### **How often should I use the PPM paper with my solution?**

You have to test your solution throughout the day. Testing one time in the custodial closet before embarking on a full shift will not cut it. We recommend frequent tests throughout a cleaning shift to verify dilution rate accuracy and proper PPM to ensure that your infection prevention methods are accurate. We recommend testing your solution at least after you’ve finished every other room.

### **What happens if my solution is more diluted than it needs to be? Can I just add more concentrate?**

No. If you have already mixed your solution and the dilution ratio is too high, meaning the concentration is too low, then you need to dispose of that solution and dilute a fresh solution.

## Is a stronger concentration better?

The answer is no. With a solution that is stronger, you run the risk of leaving residue behind on the surface. Residue even from a strong disinfectant can become a host environment for bacteria and viruses, the very microorganisms you are trying to remove.

## How does water quality affect dilution?

Water quality plays a vital role in dilution. Hard and soft water, calcium and minerals can all affect the stability of the solution and PPM. This is all the more reason to frequently validate and measure your readings throughout your cleaning shift.

## What temperature water should I use when diluting my disinfectant?

Hot water cleans better in most cases. However, most disinfectants are designed to be used with both cool and hot water. Several factors come into play here. First of all, the hotter the water, the faster it dries, shortening your dwell time. If we do not respect and ensure we are keeping the surfaces moist for the respected dwell time found on each label, we are actually failing at disinfection. Another factor is employee wellness. Disinfectants can have aggressive chemistry and hotter water will flash off into the air, perhaps causing respiratory issues among the custodial staff. That's why we recommend room temperature water for the best overall result when diluting disinfectants.

## 5 Critical Elements of Disinfectant Security

### Disinfectant SECURITY ELEMENTS

01

Always use a registered product. Read and understand the label.

02

Dilute properly regardless of the dilution method. Verify PPM.

03

Always pre-clean surfaces.

04

Dwell Contact Time.

05

Potable water rinse on food contact surfaces and pre-school toys.