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## Preparing disinfectants

### OVERVIEW



Disinfectant is a solution that can be used to kill germs on surfaces and textiles. It is especially useful in epidemics to kill the germs that are causing the epidemic. Disinfectants are available as part of the cholera kit (see *Action tool 6*).

### What you need to KNOW

- ➔ There are many different ingredients that can be added to water to create disinfectants.
- ➔ Making disinfectants can be dangerous because it involves mixing different chemicals with water. Always follow the instructions and use the help of trained people to make disinfectants.
- ➔ Look at the cholera kit (see *Action tool 6*) for more information on the preparation and use of disinfectants.

### When to use disinfectants

Disinfectants are especially useful in the following cases:

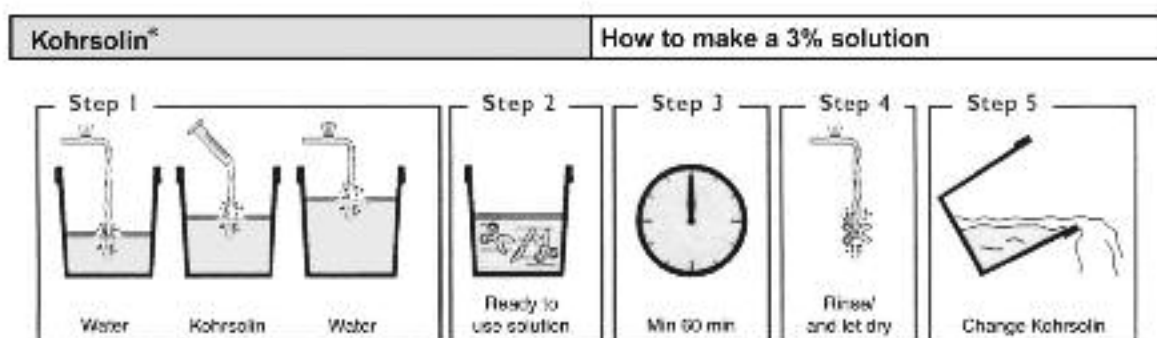
- ➔ In cholera and acute watery diarrhoea epidemics, they can be used to disinfect beds and surfaces that have come in contact with vomit and/or diarrhoea. This can reduce the spread of the disease.
- ➔ In Ebola and Marburg epidemics, because these diseases can spread as a result of almost any contact with the sick person, disinfectants are very useful for cleaning surfaces and other things that a sick person may have touched and for cleaning dead bodies. Other items used by a sick person, such as clothing and sheets, should be burned if possible in an incinerator (see *Action tool 24*).
- ➔ Disinfectants are very useful for keeping health facilities such as clinics and hospitals clean and for reducing the spread of disease among other patients.
- ➔ Chlorine can also be used to treat water for drinking and other purposes. This can only be done by volunteers if they are trained and under the supervision of a water and sanitation specialist.

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## Precautions when preparing and using disinfectants

- Always take care when using disinfectants. They can be dangerous.
- When specialists are available, always follow their advice on preparing, handling and using disinfectants.
- Do not touch 1:10 disinfectant with your hands or let it touch your bare skin. ALWAYS USE THICK GLOVES FOR PROTECTION.

Kohrsolin®		Dilution scheme		
<b>Surfaces and Equipment</b>	Floors and equipment	1 hour	1 %	10ml per 1 litre water
<b>Laundry Linens</b>	Clothes and items contaminated with faeces and urine	12 hours	2 %	20ml per 1 litre water
<b>Instruments</b>	Processing of instruments bacteria and fungi incl. in terra	1 hour	3%	30ml per 1 litre water



Please note: Do not use Kohrsolin for materials of rubber and plastic, which will be in direct contact with mucous membranes.