

## Iowa DNR/Household Hazardous Materials

**Material:** Chlorine Bleach is not considered an HHM but is considered hazardous

**Potential Hazards:** May contain hypochlorite. Most chlorine bleaches are labeled "corrosive" and "danger." Do not use directly on skin or other surfaces. Laundry bleaching may produce chloroform, which is also a suspected human carcinogen. It is unclear whether chloroform is produced at levels sufficient to cause cancer over an extended period of time. Bleach is an eye irritant and respiratory irritant. It reacts with ammonia or acids to form toxic gas. **Never mix chlorine bleach with other products.**

**Recycle / Reuse:** If you have leftover bleach in usable condition, check with neighbors, church groups or the local community to see if they can use it. You may also take it to the Regional Collection Center's swap shop for other residents to use, find yours at [iowadnr.gov/hhm](http://iowadnr.gov/hhm) under the RCC tab.

**Proper Disposal:** Take unwanted chlorine bleach to your local Regional Collection Center.

**Green Alternatives:** Cleaning with soap and hot water, using separate cutting boards for meat and vegetables, and thorough hand washing all decrease the spread of communicable diseases. Use non-chlorine bleach as an alternative.

Hydrogen Peroxide is another good alternative to use as a countertop disinfectant. It has both antibacterial and antiviral qualities and breaks down quickly and harmlessly into oxygen and water.