

# Decontamination Procedure

## What is Bleach?

Bleach is the common name for sodium hypochlorite. Most over the counter bleach contains about 6% sodium hypochlorite. Bleach is used to not only disinfect your workstation but to degrade amplicon and protect your site from contamination.

## Directions for Decontaminating Your Workstation

- 1** Gather your bleach and ethanol
  - a.** Create a 1:10 bleach solution by diluting standard bleach (6% sodium hypochlorite) 1:10 with water. Add 1/4 cup bleach per gallon of water.  
**Note:** Diluted bleach is stable for 24 hours.
  - b.** If your institution prefers to use an option that does not require diluting bleach daily, please follow these guidelines.

**Do** Ensure the product contains sodium hypochlorite (bleach).  
\*Look for the Active Ingredients on the label.

**Don't** Don't use any products that contain substitutes for bleach (Alcohol or Dimethyl Benzyl Ammonium Chloride).

- c.** Obtain 70% ethanol.

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- 2** Saturate a disposable towel with the 1:10 bleach solution or alternative equivalent (bleach wipes or bleach spray). Wipe the surface of the workstation until it is visibly wet with bleach.

**Tip:** Ensure that any touch points such as pens and door handles are bleached.

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- 3** Let the bleach rest at least 10 minutes on the work surface.

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- 4** Saturate a new disposable paper towel with 70% ethanol and wipe the bleach residue off the work surface.

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- 5** Fill out applicable decontamination logs. Visby recommends daily decontamination of workstations.

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