
 WAKE FOREST UNIVERSITY	Standard Operating Procedure (SOP)		
SODIUM HYPOCHLORITE (BLEACH)			
Effective Date:	8/23/2013	Revised Date:	8/23/2013
INTRODUCTION			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • This SOP applies to SODIUM HYPOCHLORITE (BLEACH). 			
GENERAL LAB RULES			
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. No eating, drinking, smoking, handling contact lenses, or applying cosmetics in the laboratory. 2. Persons shall wear buttoned lab coat, long pants, safety glasses or goggles and appropriate gloves when working with hazardous chemicals. 3. Mouth pipetting is prohibited; mechanical pipetting devices are to be used at all times. 4. All procedures are performed carefully to minimize the creation of splashes or aerosols. 5. Wash hands <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • after handling chemicals materials, • after removing gloves, and • before leaving the laboratory. 			
Additional Lab Specific Rules Here			
POTENTIAL HAZARDS			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Causes severe skin burns and eye damage. • Incompatibilities: Strong acids, Organic materials, powdered metals. • Reacts violently with ammonium salts, aziridine, methanol, and phenylacetonitrile, sometimes resulting in explosions. • Reacts with primary aliphatic or aromatic amines to form explosively unstable n-chloroamines. • Reaction with formic acid becomes explosive at 55°C. 			
HEALTH HAZARDS			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Inhalation: May be harmful if inhaled. Material is extremely destructive to the tissue of the mucous membranes and upper respiratory tract. • Skin: May be harmful if absorbed through skin. Causes skin burns. • Eyes: Causes eye burns. • Ingestion: May be harmful if swallowed. 			

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PERSONAL PROTECTIVE EQUIPMENT

EYE PROTECTION

- Tightly fitting safety goggles or faceshield (8-inch minimum) shall be worn during operations in which SODIUM HYPOCHLORITE might contact the eyes (e.g., through vapors or splashes of solution).

HAND PROTECTION

- Use disposable nitrile gloves when working with chemicals. Check chemical compatibility chart for breakthrough time when using
- Laboratory personnel should thoroughly wash hands with soap and water before and immediately upon removal of gloves.

LAB COATS, ETC.

- Button lab coats, closed toed shoes, long pants and long sleeved clothing shall be worn when handling SODIUM HYPOCHLORITE. Protective clothing shall be worn to prevent any possibility of skin contact with SODIUM HYPOCHLORITE.

WORK PRACTICES

- ALWAYS check the Safety Data Sheet of a chemical/agent before mixing it with bleach to ensure compatibility.
- NEVER mix bleach with an unknown liquid or unknown residue.
- Do not mix bleach with any compound that is incompatible with oxidizers.

SPECIAL HANDLING PROCEDURES AND STORAGE REQUIREMENTS

- Store SODIUM HYPOCHLORITE away from incompatibles.
- Never allow product to get in contact with water during storage. Do not store near acids.

Additional Lab Specific Special Handling/Storage Procedures

WASTE DISPOSAL

- Chemicals shall not be drain disposed unless prior approval is given by EH&S.
- Excess SODIUM HYPOCHLORITE and all waste material containing SODIUM HYPOCHLORITE must be placed in a container labeled with the following **“HAZARDOUS WASTE SODIUM HYPOCHLORITE”**, AND THE FULL CHEMICAL NAME.
- Contact EHS at x3427 for hazardous waste removal.



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EMERGENCY PROCEDURES

Emergency Numbers:

Fire and Medical Emergencies	x5911 (911 on cell phone)
Environmental Health and Safety	x3427
Hillcrest Urgent Care (employees)	336-760-8999
Student Health (students only)	x5218
Poison Control	800-222-1222

FIRST AID

1. If inhaled: If breathed in, move person into fresh air. If not breathing, give artificial respiration. Call x5911 for medical assistance.
2. In case of skin contact: Take off contaminated clothing and shoes immediately. Wash off in safety shower for at least 15 minutes. Call x5911 for medical assistance.
3. In case of eye contact: Rinse thoroughly with plenty of water at eyewash for at least 15 minutes and call x5911 for medical assistance.
4. If swallowed: Do NOT induce vomiting. Never give anything by mouth to an unconscious person. Rinse mouth with water. Call x5911 for medical assistance.
5. Call x5911 and describe the extent of injuries.
6. Report all accidental exposures to EHS and Human Resources (employees) or Student Health (students).
7. Complete an [online injury/illness report](#) if there is an over-exposure to the chemical or if there is an accident involving the chemical.

SPILL AND ACCIDENT PROCEDURES

SPILL QUANTITY	PROPER SPILL RESPONSE
Spill less than 500 mL	Contact Environmental Health and Safety (x3427) and clean up spill using spill kit. Avoid breathing vapors.
Spill greater than 500 mL	Do not attempt to clean up spill. Leave the area and immediately report to WFU Police (x5911) and EHS (x3427).