

COVID N95 DECON & REUSE



CAUTION WHEN REUSING

PROMISING METHODS

Use of humid heat, UV-C, and hydrogen peroxide vapor as decontamination methods have been supported in the literature. For data and cautions specific to these reuse methods, visit: www.n95decon.org/publications

- Humid heat
- Hydrogen peroxide vapor
- UV-C radiation

UNSUITABLE METHODS

Data indicates these methods significantly compromise N95 filtration efficiency or do not sufficiently inactivate biological contaminants. Do not employ for N95 decontamination.

- ✗ Soapy water | Soaking in soapy water has been shown to degrade filtration of multiple N95 models.^{1,2}
- ✗ Alcohol | Application of alcohols such as isopropanol or ethanol has been shown to degrade the filtration efficiency of at least one N95 model.^{1,2,3}
Products to avoid include:
 - Liquid disinfectants that contain alcohol as an ingredient
 - Alcohol-based hand sanitizers
 - Alcohol-containing disinfectant wipes
- ✗ Bleach Immersion | Immersion in bleach-containing solutions has been shown to degrade N95 filtration efficiency.³ However, wiping 3 times with a fresh bleach-containing wipe (0.9% hypochlorite) has been shown NOT to cause damage to multiple N95 models, and can decontaminate for at least one model pathogen.⁴
Bleach residue has health risks, especially for asthmatic or sensitized people.⁵ >18hr off-gassing in a fume hood has been shown to reduce residue.⁶
Products to avoid include:
 - Bleach-based liquid disinfectants
- ✗ Overnight storage | SARS-CoV-2 has been shown to remain active on surfaces for 3 or more days, indicating that overnight storage at room temperature does not sufficiently decontaminate N95s.^{7,8}

SUPPORTING RESEARCH

[1] Tsai, 2020; [2] Viscusi et al., 2007; [3] Lin et al., 2017; [4] Heimbuch et al., 2014; [5] Viscusi et al., 2009; [6] Salter et al., 2010; [7] van Doremalen, et al., 2020; [8] Chin et al., 2020

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