Best practice is to use new N95s. Decontamination does not solve the PPE shortage crisis, and is an emergency practice to be considered during the COVID-19 pandemic. Efficacy and safety of N95 decontamination has not been fully characterized.

COVID-19 N95 DECON & REUSE



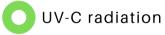
CAUTION WHEN REUSING

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: <u>www.n95decon.org/publications</u>

🔿 Humid heat 💦 🚺 Hydroge

Hydrogen peroxide vapor



UNSUITABLE METHODS

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

X	Soapy water	Soaking in soapy water has been shown to degrade filtration of multiple N95 models. ¹
×	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} 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. ² 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. ³ Bleach residue has health risks, especially for asthmatic or sensitized people. ⁴ >18hr off-gassing in a fume hood has been shown to reduce residue. ⁵ 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. ^{6,7}

SUPPORTING RESEARCH

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

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