

Decontamination

Field equipment must be decontaminated at the site to prevent transfer of organisms within and between systems. The plankton net, cod-end piece and affiliated rope are decontaminated by spraying with a 5 to 7% solution of household bleach (i.e. approximately 0.05 mL of active chlorine per L of water assuming 10% of bleach solution is active chlorine). To make the solution, add 7oz (a little less than 1 cup) of household bleach to 1 gal (16 cups/ 128 oz) of water. The 5 to 7% bleach solution is carefully poured into a spray bottle and applied to equipment on pavement or concrete a minimum of 100 ft from open water. Bleach is corrosive and equipment must be thoroughly rinsed with tap water following decontamination. We suggest using at least an entire spray bottle (32 oz) of tap water to rinse the net following decontamination.