WIPING CLOTH SOLUTION

Violation #17, 20, 21, 41 HACCP #21
Food Code Sections: 750.800; 750.810; 750.820; 750.1320

Store Wet Wiping Cloths in Sanitizing Solution Between Uses

- Bacteria grow on dirty wiping cloths left on a counter the same as they do on food held at the wrong temperature. When the wiping cloth is used to “clean” another surface, it will contaminate it with the bacteria. To avoid bacterial growth on the wiping cloth, a wet wiping cloth must be stored in a proper sanitizing solution between uses.

Provide Proper Concentration of Sanitizing Solution for Wiping Cloths

- Chlorine Bleach – 100 - 200 parts per million (ppm)
- “QUAT” – follow the manufacturer’s guidelines on the container
- Iodine – 25 parts per million (ppm)
- If concentration is too LOW, it is too WEAK.
- If concentration is too HIGH, it is too strong and considered TOXIC.

Provide Chemical Test Strips for Sanitizing Solution

- The ONLY way to know the concentration is to TEST IT using chemical test strips that are designed to test the parts per million (ppm) of the specific type of sanitizer being used.
- Follow the directions on the test strip label for proper use of sanitizer strips.

Helpful Tips:

- Do not prepare the sanitizing solution with the wiping cloths already in the bucket. The sanitizer can be absorbed by the wiping cloths before mixing with the water. This may not give an accurate measurement when testing the concentration of the sanitizing solution.
- Be aware when using environmentally friendly bleaches. These bleaches break down very quickly and will not maintain the correct concentration of sanitizer.
- Do not mix sanitizer with soap in the same bucket.
- Do not use scented bleach, it is considered TOXIC.
- The strength of the sanitizing solution will change over time. It is important to check the sanitizing solution frequently to make sure it stays clean and tests at the proper strength. Use the test strip. Once the solution becomes too weak, or becomes soiled, discard it and prepare a new solution and rinse towels or get new towels to use in the new solution. If the sanitizing solution becomes mixed with soap, detergent, or food particles, prepare a new solution.

Public Health
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