



POST-PANLEUKOPENIA HOME DISINFECTION GUIDE

Feline panleukopenia virus (FPV) is highly contagious, extremely resilient, and can survive in the environment for over a year under the right conditions. ***Effective disinfection is essential to protect future litters and resident cats from exposure.***

This guide outlines the safest, most effective methods to sanitize your home after fostering kittens with confirmed or suspected FPV.

🚫 *Step 1: Remove All Organic Matter*

FPV is resistant to most disinfectants in the presence of organic debris (feces, urine, vomit, litter dust, food, etc.).

- Dispose of all disposable items: bedding, toys, cardboard, scratchers, and litter boxes.
- Wash reusable items with hot soapy water to remove all visible dirt.
- Vacuum thoroughly—including corners, baseboards, and upholstery.
- Mop all floors using a degreasing agent before disinfecting.



Step 2: Choose the Right Disinfectant

The only disinfectants proven to kill FPV are:

Bleach (Sodium Hypochlorite)

- Dilution: 1 part bleach to 32 parts water (½ cup bleach per gallon)
- Contact time: 10 minutes
- Surfaces: Non-porous only (plastic, tile, stainless steel)
- ***Do not mix with other chemicals.***
- ***Use in well-ventilated areas.***



Rescue™ (Accelerated Hydrogen Peroxide)

- Dilution: Use as directed on label
- Contact time: 5 minutes
- Less corrosive and safer for many surfaces and around pets once dry

Trifectant® / Virkon®

- Effective on porous and non-porous surfaces
- Good for mopping large areas or spraying outdoor enclosures



Step 3: Disinfect All Surfaces

Focus on areas kittens touched or were near. Don't forget:

- Floors, walls, baseboards
- Carriers, crates, litter boxes
- Toys, bowls, feeding supplies
- Doorknobs, cabinet handles, light switches
- **Soft furnishings (see below)**

Soft Areas: FPV can remain on fabric, rugs, and soft furniture.

- Launder in hot water with bleach if safe for fabric
- Steam clean carpets and upholstery
- Use Rescue™ spray or Trifectant for hard-to-laundry surfaces
- Consider replacing items that cannot be fully disinfected



Step 4: Air Out the Space

- Open windows and run fans to ventilate and dry the area
- Wait 48–72 hours before introducing new kittens, ideally longer



Step 5: Monitor & Repeat

- Repeat disinfection of high-contact areas weekly for a month if other animals live in the home
- Make sure kittens coming into the space are vaccinated. It is safe to vaccinate at any age based on risk. This is a time to implement early vaccination. →



Additional Tips

- **Wear gloves** and old clothes while cleaning
- Keep resident cats **vaccinated** and out of contaminated areas
- Store all unused kitten supplies in clean, sealed containers away from the contaminated area

When in doubt - throw it out!

FPV is tough. If you can't confidently disinfect an item (e.g., carpeted scratch posts, foam beds), it's safest to discard it.

Questions?

At National Kitten College, we believe in empowering and trusting our foster families. After appropriate and thorough disinfection has been completed using proven FPV-killing methods, it is both safe and necessary to welcome new kittens into the home — sometimes even sooner than we might feel emotionally ready. While panleukopenia is serious, delaying foster placements for extended periods can result in unnecessary loss of life, especially during high-volume kitten season. With proper cleaning, education, and vaccination protocols in place, we can confidently move forward and continue saving lives. Our foster homes are not just places of recovery — they are the front lines of prevention, compassion, and hope.

Contact National Kitten College or your shelter/rescue's medical team for tailored advice, especially if you're unsure about specific surfaces or how long to wait before fostering again.

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