



# 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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[nationalkittencollege](https://www.nationalkittencollege.org)



[kittencollege.org](https://www.kittencollege.org)



[info@kittencollege.org](mailto:info@kittencollege.org)