



SMITTEN KITTEN RESCUE

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# FIP

## FELINE INFECTIOUS PERITONITIS

### HOME DISINFECTION GUIDE

#### UNDERSTANDING FIP AND CONTAMINATION

FIP (Feline Infectious Peritonitis) is not directly contagious. It develops when the common feline coronavirus (FCoV) mutates inside a cat. Most cats exposed to FCoV never develop FIP.

On clean, dry surfaces, FCoV usually survives 24–48 hours. In dried feces, litter, dust, or organic material, it may persist for up to 7 weeks under cool, protected conditions. Because of this variability, many veterinarians recommend a safety buffer of up to 2 months before introducing new kittens or immune-compromised cats.

FCoV is easily destroyed by common disinfectants (such as diluted bleach, quaternary ammonium compounds, and accelerated hydrogen peroxide). Complete drying of surfaces also greatly reduces survival.

#### GENERAL CLEANING FIRST

Remove organic matter. Wash litter boxes, bedding, toys, food/water bowls, and carriers with hot, soapy water.

Launder bedding, blankets, and soft toys on the hottest setting they can tolerate. Dry thoroughly.

Carpets and upholstery should be vacuumed to remove fur and debris. Dispose of vacuum waste outside immediately.

#### DISINFECTING SURFACES

**The recipe for diluted bleach solution is 1 part bleach to 32 parts water (½ cup bleach in 1 gallon water). Apply for at least 10 minutes before rinsing.**

Household disinfectants. Products with benzalkonium chloride, accelerated hydrogen peroxide, or quaternary ammonium compounds are effective. Confirm pet safety before use.

Steam cleaning is useful for carpets, upholstery, and cat trees. Focus on litter boxes (replace plastic ones if possible), floors, counters, baseboards, cat trees, scratching posts, toys, food and water bowls (replace cheap plastic; run others through dishwasher on hot cycle).

#### VENTILATION & DRYING

Open windows when possible to improve airflow. Allow all surfaces and fabrics to dry completely after cleaning and disinfecting. Drying alone significantly reduces viral survival.

For maximum safety, wait up to 2 months before introducing kittens, fosters, or immune-compromised cats. Adult, healthy cats are generally at lower risk once cleaning and disinfecting are completed.

#### TAKEAWAY

FIP itself is not contagious, it's the underlying coronavirus (FCoV) that spreads between cats. Thorough cleaning, disinfecting, and giving time for the environment to dry out drastically reduce risk