

CHEMICAL SHELF LIFE

BASICS



STORAGE CONDITIONS:

Shelf life depends on storage conditions

Heat, freezing, and sunlight affect stability **more than time alone.**

BEST STORAGE PRACTICES:

- ✓ STORE BETWEEN 50-90°F
- ✓ KEEP SEALED TIGHTLY
- ✓ AVOID FREEZING
- ✓ KEEP OUT OF DIRECT SUNLIGHT

UNOPENED

-VS-

OPENED

Typical ranges (proper storage):

- Neutral cleaners & general purpose cleaners: **3-5+ years**
- Degreasers: **3-5 years**
- Quat disinfectants & sanitizers: **2-5 years**
- Glass cleaners: **3-5 years**
- Floor cleaners/maintainers: **2-4 years**
- Bleach: **6-12 months**
- Hydrogen peroxide products: **~1 year**

Expected usability after opening:

- Neutral & general cleaners: **1-3+ years**
- Degreasers: **1-3 years**
- Quat disinfectants: **1-2+ years (keep sealed to prevent contamination)**
- Glass cleaners: **1-3 years**
- Floor finish & coatings: **~1-2 years (sensitive to air)**
- Bleach: **3-6 months for full strength**
- Hydrogen peroxide: **6 months to 1 year**

SIGNS A CHEMICAL MAY BE EXPIRED

- CLOUDINESS OR SEPARATION
- COLOR CHANGE
- WEAK OR UNUSUAL ODOR
- REDUCED CLEANING PERFORMANCE

DISPOSING OF EXPIRED CLEANING CHEMICALS

- Follow the label & SDS: Check Section 13 for proper disposal instructions.
- Use approved disposal: Some products can be sewered when diluted; others require hazardous waste handling. Contact the Howard County Recycling District for guidance.
- Keep original containers: Labels provide critical safety information.
- Do not mix chemicals: Dispose of products separately to prevent dangerous reactions.
- Handle leaks safely: Wear gloves and place leaking containers in a sealed secondary container.