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C. elegans bleaching solution preparation V.1

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Protocol status: Working
We use this protocol and it's working

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Abstract

The *C. elegans* bleaching solution is used for several purposes:

- destroying and removing bacterial or fungal cells from a contaminated *C. elegans* population. This is possible because *C. elegans* eggs are resistant to the bleaching used in this protocol but most fungi and bacteria are not.

- synchronising a *C. elegans* population consisting of worms at different developmental stages. This is possible because eggs are resistant to the bleaching used in this protocol but hatched worms (larvae and adults) are not.

Materials

MATERIALS

- Disposable gloves, nitrile
- sodium hydroxide 10 M
- DEPC water
- Sodium hypochlorite solution **Honeywell Fluka Catalog #**239305-500ML
- 50 ml Falcon tube

Troubleshooting

Safety warnings

Sodium hypochlorite and sodium hydoxide are highly toxic and should be handled with care, wearing a lab coat and goggles. Read relevant information.

Before start

Prepare the bleaching solution.
Get a plate of gravid (= pregnant) worms or a plate with lots of unhatched eggs if you want to carry out an egg prep.

1 Add 42 ml DEPC water to a 50 ml Falcon tube. 3m

2 Add 3 ml 10 M NaOH 3m

3 Add 5 ml sodium hypochlorite solution 3m

4 See relevant protocol for details but 6 ml of bleaching solution for 5 minutes on a vortex in 14 ml tubes should be sufficient to dissolve worms and spare eggs.