

Less is More

How Ratios Can Help You Use Cleaning Products Safely

PRE-READING

CONCENTRATED: the manufacturer has taken most of the water out of the product. *This orange juice is **concentrated**. You have to add water.*

DILUTE: to add water. *Don't drink that concentrated orange juice. You should **dilute** it first with water.*

RATIO: the measure of one thing relative to another. *For every can of orange juice, you should add three cans of water. The **ratio** of orange juice to water is one to three or 1 : 3.*

The good thing about concentrated products is the package can be smaller. You get *more* product in *less* packaging. A smaller container means less trash. *But* you have to carefully check the label. If it says "concentrate" or "dilute with water," you must add water to use the product safely.



Mix It Up!

The directions on some packages tell you how to mix up a gallon. What if you want more or less than a gallon? You'll have to scale up or down, keeping the ratios the same. Use the chart below to practice scaling up and down.

	Cleanser	Water
The directions say:	¼ cup	1 gallon
To make half that amount, combine:		
To make a quarter of that amount, combine:		
To make five times that amount, combine:		



Water	Cleanser	
1/2 gallon	1/8 cup	half
1 quart	1/16 cup	quarter
5 gallons	1 ¼ cups	twice

Answer key