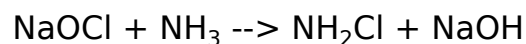


# Chemistry

## What is sodium hypochlorite (in bleach) and what happens when you mix it with ammonia?

The "hypo" prefix is really just a way of telling you how many oxygen atoms are in sodium hypochlorite. It means only one oxygen atom. Thus, sodium hypochlorite is NaOCl. That's the main ingredient in bleach. The "hypo" distinguishes this chemical from sodium chlorite, which is NaClO<sub>2</sub>.

When you mix bleach with ammonia, the sodium hypochlorite reacts with the ammonia to produce a toxic gas, chloramine (NH<sub>2</sub>Cl). The full chemical reaction is:



The gas is toxic and should not be inhaled.

Unique solution ID: #1033

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