

UPDATED 3-2-1 RULE

The 3-2-1 rule is for safe & best practices when mixing IV bags based on USP 797 and the immediate use compounding section. Following this rule is part of compliance required with adhering to USP 797 guidelines. Please note that USP 797 is constantly undergoing revisions and amendments. **The USP guidelines include mixing up to 3 manufactured products and 2 entries into 1 sterile container.**

The 3-2-1 rule is

- The bag (NS or LR) + 2 ingredients = 3
- 2 bag sticks (1 being the bag spike and the other being the addition of 2 ingredients)
- 1 hour to use the bag.

Steps

1. Clean your area with 70% isopropyl alcohol spray or wipes
2. Wash your hands with antibacterial soap and water for at least 1 minute
3. Don your gloves
4. Spray or clean your gloves with 70% isopropyl alcohol or wipes
5. Set out your ingredients, needles, syringes and bag
6. Wipe them down with 70% isopropyl alcohol
7. Draw up ingredients
 - a. Draw up the volume you need in air into your syringe for ingredient one
 - b. Insert the needle into the vial, turn upside down and push the air into the vial
 - c. Draw out the volume of ingredient you need
 - d. CHANGE NEEDLES
 - e. Repeat for next ingredient
8. Once 2 ingredients are in the 1 syringe add them to your IV Bag
9. Agitate the bag
10. Use the bag within 1 hour
11. Add ons or IM injections should be drawn up following the same steps of preparation including hand hygiene, cleaning, needle changing, etc

Note- if you do not have a segregated area to spray down with 70% isopropyl alcohol or wipes, please use a blue paper sheet that you will dispose of and still use proper hand hygiene, mask, gloves, and cleaning of ingredients, needles, syringes, bag etc.

Thanks,

Lindsey Urbatchka, PharmD

Sources:

<https://www.wolterskluwer.com/en/expert-insights/usp-797-a-breakdown-of-low-medium-and-high-risks>

<https://www.usp.org/>

<https://www.usp.org/sites/default/files/usp/document/our-work/compounding/proposed-revisions-gc-797.pdf>

DOI: https://doi.org/10.31003/USPNF_M99925_07_01