

Biological Spills Procedure

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The following procedure is recommended for decontaminating spills of blood, body fluids, or other infectious materials.

Preparation for the potential response should include the provision and easy accessibility of materials necessary for clean-up and decontamination.

Biological spill kit contents:

- Gloves and lab coat
- Puncture resistant utility gloves
- Disinfectant – Bleach
- Squeeze bottle containing a 10% bleach solution made fresh daily
- Absorbent material – paper towels, wonder wipes
- Forceps
- Dust pan
- Heavy duty autoclavable bags
- Garbage bucket

1. Wear gloves and a gown. Heavy weight, puncture resistant utility gloves such as those used for house cleaning and dish washing are recommended.

If the spill contains broken glass or other objects, these should be removed with forceps. Rigid sheets of cardboard used as a 'pusher' and 'receiver' may also be used to handle such objects and discarded into an appropriate biohazard container.

2. Absorb the spill – since most disinfectants are less active, or even ineffective, in the presence of high concentrations of protein as are found in blood and serum, the bulk of the spilled liquid should be absorbed prior to disinfection.

Spilled material should be absorbed with disposable absorbent material. (e.g. paper towels or wonder wipes) After absorption of the liquid, all contaminated materials should be discarded in the biohazard waste container.

3. Disinfect spill site using a 10% bleach solution - Cover the spill area with paper towel to avoid splashing. Gently pour disinfectant onto the paper towels, working in a circular motion from the outside to the center. Wait 30minutes.
4. Dispose of the paper towels into an autoclave bag. Absorb any remaining disinfectant solution.
5. Rinse spill site with water to remove any noxious chemicals or odours. The spill site should be dried to prevent slipping.
6. Place all disposable materials used to decontaminate the spill into a biohazard container. The infectious waste should be taken to the autoclave room for decontamination. Any reusable materials should be decontaminated prior to storage.

Biohazardous sharps container - glassware and metal sharps
Autoclavable waste bag – contaminated materials to be autoclaved

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