



ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH & SAFETY FACT SHEET: BIOLOGICAL SPILL CLEAN UP



Biohazardous Agent: refers to an agent that is biological in nature and has the capacity to produce deleterious effects upon biological organisms. Biohazardous agents include, but are not limited to; bacteria, fungi, viruses, rickettsiae, Chlamydia, prion, parasites, recombinant products, allergens, cultured human and animal cells and the potentially biohazardous agents these cells may contain, infected clinical specimens, tissue from experimental animals, plant viruses, bacteria and fungi, toxins, and other biohazardous agents as defined by State and Federal regulations.

PPE (Personal Protective Equipment):

Large spill such as a raw sewage leak that has a high risk of splash potential: PPE requirements include water proof gloves (rubber, nitrile, etc.), rubber boots, waterproof Tyvek™ coveralls or suit and mucous membrane protection that includes goggles and a dust mask.

Small spill such as a small pool of blood that has a risk of splashing: PPE requirements at a minimum include waterproof gloves (rubber, nitrile, etc.) and mucous membrane protection with goggles and dusk mask. Protective clothing such as boots and coveralls may be worn depending on the size and potential for splashing during clean-up.

Dried body fluids or a very small spill of biohazardous material such as dried blood or blood from a tube of blood, that have a low risk of splashing: Wearing water-proof gloves (rubber, nitrile, etc.) at a minimum would be required for PPE in this type of spill clean up. Other PPE may be worn depending on the situation.

Clean Up Procedure:

Large or small spill with splash potential: first use absorbent material to soak up and contain spill with absorbent powder/ paper towels. Pour disinfectant directly onto material to disinfect. A broad spectrum disinfectant such as a freshly made 10% bleach solution poured on and left on the material 10-30 minutes before clean-up is sufficient in most instances to disinfect. Other disinfectants may be used as long as the label lists that it kills a broad spectrum of human infectious agents. After the material is collected and placed into a trash bag, pour disinfection on the area of spill to complete disinfection and wipe up with paper towels.

Dried body fluids or small spill with low splash potential: Use absorbent material to soak up and contain spill with absorbent powder/ paper towels if necessary. Pour a broad spectrum disinfectant such as a freshly made 10% bleach solution onto the spill and leave on for 10-30 minutes before clean-up. Other disinfectants may be used as long as the label lists that it kills a broad spectrum of infectious agents. It is important to read these labels and be familiar with the directions for use and expiration dates of the disinfectant. After the material is collected and placed in a trash bag, pour disinfection on the area of spill to complete disinfection and wipe up with paper towels.

Basic Hygiene & Accidental Exposures:

Employees should wash their hands with soap and warm water immediately after removal of gloves and other protective equipment.

- ▶ Disinfect all reusable equipment
- ▶ Upon accidental skin contaminations wash the area with copious amounts of soap and water
- ▶ If the eyes or mucous membranes are accidentally contaminated flush with copious amounts of water
- ▶ Report all accidental exposures to your supervisor

Disposal Procedures:

For non-laboratory areas: Most body fluids and clean-up materials can be placed into dark garbage bags and thrown into a dumpster. The only exception would be if the body fluid spill was large quantities of blood (i.e. pooled blood). If clean up materials are soaked or dripping with blood, please call EH&S for biohazard bags & boxes to package material for off-site medical waste incineration. *Laboratories:* Dispose of as biohazardous waste.

Biological Safety Services
117 Draper Hall
40 Campus Center Way
Amherst, MA 01003-9244

Phone: 413-545-7293
Fax: 413-545-2600
E-mail: jladuc@ehs.umass.edu