

Disinfection

This SOP applies to individuals who handle, manipulate, transfer, store or dispose of biohazardous agents. This SOP is intended to complement the solid and liquid medical waste SOPs. Biological agents can pose varying risks of harm to humans, animals and the environment, including life-threatening disease and chronic illnesses. Therefore, appropriate decontamination of equipment and waste is critical to prevent contact with and release of harmful biological agents.

Procedure:

1. Don appropriate PPE for the live biological agent and the chemical disinfectant
2. If necessary, dilute/reconstitute chemical disinfectant to the concentration required to deactivate the agent, making sure to factor in the volume of liquid waste

For Liquids:

3. Carefully pour disinfectant into liquid waste so that the final concentration of the disinfectant deactivates the agent
4. Allow the contact time, required to deactivate the agent, to elapse
5. Dispose of decontaminated liquid waste as chemical hazardous waste

NOTE: Liquid solutions containing bleach and no other chemicals may be disposed down the drain with copious amounts of water. Flush for 15 minutes.

For Solids

3. Apply disinfectant to the contaminated surface so that it is completely covered
4. Keep the surface saturated for the contact time required to deactivate the agent
5. Wipe up chemical disinfectant from saturated area with absorbent materials
6. Dispose of the absorbent materials into the trash

Cautions & Considerations

- The disinfectant in use, the active concentration and the required contact time must be appropriate/effective for the agent in use
- Additional PPE may be required to handle the agent and/or the chemical disinfectant

Resources

- UMass Amherst [Biosafety Manual](#) Chapter 11
- [BMBL 5th Edition](#)