

Environmental Services Best Practices - Procedures for Cleaning Biological Spills

Personal Care/Group/Residential Homes

Cleaning Blood and Body Fluids Spills

Assemble materials required for dealing with the spill prior to putting on personal protective equipment. Care must be taken to avoid splashing or generating aerosols during the cleanup.

Inspect the area around the spill thoroughly for splatters or splashes.

Restrict the activity around the spill until the area has been cleaned and disinfected and is completely dry.

Put on gloves; if there is a possibility of splashing, wear a gown and facial protection (mask and eye protection or face shield).

Confine and contain the spill; wipe up any blood or body fluid spills immediately using either disposable towels or a product designed for this purpose. Dispose of materials by placing them into regular waste receptacle, unless the soiled materials are so wet that blood can be squeezed out of them, in which case they must be segregated into a leak-proof container and identified as biomedical waste.

Disinfect the entire spill area with a Health Canada approved disinfectant and allow it to stand for the amount of time recommended by the manufacturer.

Wipe up the area again using disposable towels and discard into regular waste.

Remove gloves and perform hand hygiene.

Blood and Body Fluids on Carpet

Carpeting should be removed, discarded, and not replaced by a new carpet (preferred) or cleaned with an industrial carpet cleaner as soon as possible. (Use the procedure outlined above.)

NOTE: Carpeting must not be used in areas where spills of blood or other body substances may be anticipated (e.g., procedure rooms, intensive care units).

If sodium hypochlorite (bleach) is used to disinfect an area after a spill, follow the dilution ratios below:

- For a minor blood spill, use a bleach solution with 500 ppm free available chlorine: Add 1 part of bleach (5.25%) to 99 parts of water to achieve a concentration of 500 ppm.
- For a major blood spill, use a bleach solution with 5000 ppm free available chlorine: Add 1 part of bleach (5.25%) to 9 parts of water to achieve a concentration of 5000 ppm.

Safe Disposal of Sharps

To remove a needle and syringe that has been disposed of incorrectly:

- Put on a pair of gloves.
- Ideally, take a sharps container to the needle and syringe.
- NEVER re-cap a needle and syringe even if a cap is available.
- Use tongs, or puncture-resistant gloves, to pick up the needle and syringe.
- Carefully place the needle and syringe in the sharps container.
- Report the incident to your supervisor or manager.