



Syracuse University Environmental Health and Safety Services

Blood Spill Cleanup Procedure

This procedure provides information for affected employees in the University's Bloodborne Pathogens Exposure Control Program to clean up a spill of blood or other potentially infectious materials (OPIM) in accordance with the Occupational Safety and Health Administration's Bloodborne Pathogens Standard (29 CFR 1910.1030). Spill cleanup may only be performed by personnel who have completed the University's annual Bloodborne Pathogens Training.

Contact the Department of Public Safety (DPS) at 315-443-2224 if the spill involves an exposure, personal injury, the need for evacuation, or if the spill is unable to be safely managed by cleanup personnel due to the size, conditions, or hazards of the spill.

To successfully clean a spill of blood or OPIM, affected employees will:

1. Notify their supervisor of the spill and request support as needed. Notify others in the immediate area of the spill and restrict access to the spill area to prevent further contamination.
2. Retrieve appropriate spill response materials or the area's biohazardous materials spill kit, if available.
3. Identify the extent of the contaminated area and prepare for cleanup.
4. Don personal protective equipment. At a minimum, two pairs of nitrile gloves and eye protection must be worn.
5. Observe the extent of the contaminated area for sharps or broken glass. If present, remove objects using tongs, forceps, or other mechanical means. Dispose of the pieces into a sharps container. Never touch or pick up contaminated sharps directly with the hands.
6. Clean and disinfect the area.
 - a. Cover the extent of the spill with absorbent material.
 - b. Apply the selected disinfectant onto the covered spill area beginning at the outer radius of the spill and working toward the center.
 - c. Allow the disinfectant to remain wet and in contact with the spill for the selected disinfectant's required contact time. The contact time will be disinfectant-specific and is provided on the product label and/or on the product manufacturer's use literature. If the required contact time for the conditions of the spill is unknown, use a 10-minute contact time.
 - d. Wipe up the spill material and remove the materials used for absorbent.
 - e. Collect all materials in a double-lined trash bag or biohazardous waste container.
7. Reclean and disinfect the area. Repeat Step 6 to ensure the area has been thoroughly cleaned and decontaminated.
8. Decontaminate reusable spill cleanup equipment using the selected disinfectant. Dispose of single-use equipment and materials in a double-lined trash bag or biohazardous waste container.
9. Doff personal protective equipment. Remove all PPE and decontaminate or dispose of as appropriate. Remove inner gloves last.
10. Thoroughly wash hands with soap and warm water.