



Blood and Body Fluid Cleaning Procedures

Different governmental and global health organizations all provide guidance in performing decontamination of blood and body fluid (BBF) spills in commercial facilities on hard non-porous surfaces. While some of the guidance is intended primarily for a Healthcare audience, the governmental guidance usually applies to any commercial facility. As the disinfectants used to decontaminate these surfaces are required to be registered with the country government, their requirements for product labeling of disinfectants for hard surface decontamination are also relevant to this discussion.

For public facilities, including Healthcare facilities, body fluid spills such as blood, feces and vomit on hard non-porous environmental surfaces must be decontaminated to protect public health. The procedure must also protect the worker during decontamination.

While the procedure for BBF cleanup is largely the same regardless of the spill size, there is more risk associated with large spill BBF cleanup, so there are some additional steps recommended as shown.

Recommended Procedures:

1. Assess the size of the spill and determine whether to treat as a large spill or a small spill.
2. Perform hand hygiene and put on appropriate Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) to prevent blood-borne pathogen exposure during decontamination, including disposable latex, vinyl, or nitrile gloves, fluid resistant gowns, face masks and eye covering (goggles or face shield). Note that for certain disinfectants or if there is a risk of splashing during the cleanup, additional PPE may be required. Refer to the SDS for the disinfectant for additional information.
3. Perform one of the following procedures for Small Spill or Large Spill surface decontamination.
4. Remove PPE, dispose of PPE appropriately, and perform hand hygiene.

Small spills

1. Wipe up a small BBF spill with paper towel or similar disposable absorbent material. Discard in red bag (bio-hazard) trash.
2. Clean the surface using an appropriate cleaner or cleaner/disinfectant to remove all of the gross soil and any BBF residues. Cleaning cloths used in BBF decontamination should be treated as contaminated and laundered or disposed of appropriately.
3. Disinfect the surface with a registered disinfectant that contains a blood-borne pathogen claim and apply according to the directions on the label. Ensure surfaces stay wet for the contact time of the disinfectant, reapplying the disinfectant if needed to keep the surface wet for the full contact time. Cleaning cloths used in BBF decontamination should be treated as contaminated and laundered or disposed of appropriately.
4. Once the contact time of the disinfectant has lapsed and the surface has air dried, the surface can be returned to normal use.

Large spills

1. Absorb and/or wipe up BBF or other organic material with paper towels, absorbent granules, or similar material. Discard in red bag (bio-hazard) trash.
2. Clean the surface using an appropriate cleaner or cleaner/disinfectant to remove all of the gross soil and any BBF residues. Cleaning cloths used in BBF decontamination should be treated as contaminated and laundered or disposed of appropriately.
3. Disinfect the surface with a registered disinfectant that contains a blood-borne pathogen claim and apply according to the directions on the label. Ensure surfaces stay wet for the contact time of the disinfectant, reapplying the disinfectant if needed to keep the surface wet for the full contact time. Cleaning cloths used in BBF decontamination should be treated as contaminated and laundered or disposed of appropriately.
4. Once the contact time of the disinfectant has lapsed and the surface has air dried, the surface can be returned to normal use.

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In labs, research areas, and other higher risk areas, with a large spill, use these steps:

Perform hand hygiene and put on appropriate Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) to prevent blood-borne pathogen exposure during decontamination, including disposable latex, vinyl, or nitrile gloves, fluid resistant gowns, face masks and eye covering (goggles or face shield). Note that for certain disinfectants or if there is a risk of splashing during the cleanup, additional PPE may be required. Refer to the SDS for the disinfectant for additional information.

1. Confine the contaminated area using absorbent or barriers.
2. Flood the contaminated area using an intermediate level disinfectant or 5,000+ ppm of sodium hypochlorite and allow to stand for the contact time of the disinfectant. Wipe up using paper towels or other absorbent materials. Discard in red bag (bio-hazard) trash.
3. Clean the surface using an appropriate cleaner or cleaner/disinfectant to remove all of the gross soil and any BBF residues. Cleaning cloths used in BBF decontamination should be treated as contaminated and laundered or disposed of appropriately.
4. Disinfect the surface with a registered disinfectant that contains a blood-borne pathogen claim and apply according to the directions on the label. Ensure surfaces stay wet for the contact time of the disinfectant, reapplying the disinfectant if needed to keep the surface wet for the full contact time. Cleaning cloths used in BBF decontamination should be treated as contaminated and laundered or disposed of appropriately.
5. Once the contact time of the disinfectant has lapsed and the surface has air dried and, the surface can be returned to normal use.
6. Remove PPE, dispose of PPE appropriately, and perform hand hygiene.

Additional precautions: the following precautions apply to all BBF cleanup procedures:

1. Broken glassware and other sharp objects which may be contaminated shall not be picked up directly with the hands. It shall be cleaned up using mechanical means, such as a tongs, forceps, or scraper and dust pan. Discard in red bag (bio-hazard) trash.
2. Sharps which may be contaminated shall not be picked up directly with the hands. It shall be cleaned up using mechanical means, such as a tongs, forceps, or scraper and dust pan and placed in an appropriate sharps receptacle.
3. Reusable materials, such as cleaning tools, scrapers, dust pans, etc. (i.e. materials that cannot be laundered) and all reusable PPE must be manually disinfected after cleaning up a BBF spill before they can be reused.
4. Disposal of Infectious Material: Blood and other body fluids should be disposed of according to Federal, State, and local regulations for infectious waste disposal.

If you have any questions, please contact Diversey Customer Technical Support on your local number.

The process discussed is based on the following recommendations:

1. EPA label requirements as found in the EPA Label Review Manual
2. OSHA Bloodborne Pathogen Standard, 29 CFR 1910.1030.
3. CDC Guideline for Environmental Infection Control in Health-Care Facilities, 2003.
4. CDC Guideline for Disinfection and Sterilization in Healthcare Facilities, 2008.