

Body Fluids, Feces, & Vomit

Individuals, who clean up blood, vomit or feces, should minimize the risk of infection to themselves and others by following the steps outlined below:

1. Wear appropriate personal protective equipment for cleaning up a spill. Disposable gloves must be worn during the cleaning and disinfecting procedures. If the possibility of splashing exists, the worker should wear protective eyewear and gown.
2. Dispose of any broken glass or sharps with care into a sharps container.
3. Collect as much of the material as possible using a tool similar to a toy shovel or scoop.
4. Absorb and remove any remaining soil with disposable towels. Discard the towels in a plastic-lined waste receptacle.
5. Clean any organic material from the spill area before applying a disinfectant, as disinfectants are substantially inactivated by blood and other materials.
6. Mix solution of ½ ounce of **Fast-1-2-3** Detergent in a gallon of cold water. Dip a hand scrub brush into the solution and agitate to generate foam. Liberally and thoroughly work the foam and solution into the spill area.
7. Allow solution to set for 2 to 3 minutes and then extract with a spot vacuum, regular water vacuum, or absorbent disposable towels. Discard the towels in a plastic-lined waste receptacle.
8. Apply fresh cold water liberally to the affected area and agitate well using a clean brush. Proceed as per step 6 to absorb as much liquid as possible.
9. Disinfect the affected area after a thorough washing and rinsing, with a commercial disinfectant-detergent solution mixed as per product label. If not available, use a chemical disinfectant such as sodium hypochlorite (household bleach) or 3% hydrogen peroxide. A concentration of household bleach at 5000 ppm (1:10 dilution) is effective. For carpet or upholstered surfaces, 3% peroxide or disinfectant-detergent solution may be used.
10. Let the disinfectant solution set for 10 minutes. Absorb liquid as described in step 6 above. Rinse well with fresh water and vacuum up or absorb into clean Turkish or disposable towels.
11. Leave to air dry or speed dry using a fan. Barricade the area using “wet floor” signs.

When using bleach solutions, be sure the area is well ventilated and that it is not mixed with other cleaning compounds. The disposable towels, gloves and other disposable equipment should be discarded in a plastic lined waste receptacle. Immediately tie and place with regular waste where daily trash removal occurs. Take care not to contaminate other surfaces during this process. Changing gloves may be needed.

Care must be taken to avoid splashing. If a disinfectant aerosol is used after washing and rinsing, spray lightly onto the wet area. Hands must be thoroughly washed for 15 seconds with soap and warm running water after gloves are removed.

OSHA-Compliance Cleaning Kits may be purchased to keep available for body fluid emergencies. Order: Gabriel OSHA Compliance Kit No. 5522-03