



# Procedure for cleaning up blood or bodily fluids on hard surfaces

Blood, vomit and feces may contain germs that can cause serious infections. People who clean blood and other bodily fluids should reduce the risk of infection to themselves and others by following these procedures:

## Procedure for Blood Spills/Vomit/Feces

1. Wear appropriate personal protective equipment, such as disposable gloves when cleaning up a spill. If the possibility of splashing exists, protective eyewear and a gown should be worn. Eye glasses are not considered to be protective eyewear.
2. Dispose with care, any broken glass or sharps into a puncture-proof container. If available, disposal of sharps into an approved sharps container for biomedical waste is preferred.
3. Clean the spill area with paper towel to remove most of the spill. Disinfectants cannot work properly if the surface has blood or other bodily fluids on it. Cloth towels should not be used unless they are to be thrown out.
4. Discard the paper towel soaked with the blood, vomit, feces or fluid in a plastic-lined garbage bin.
5. Care must be taken to avoid splashing or spraying during the clean up process.
6. Clean the affected area with soap and water then disinfect with a 1:10 bleach solution for 10 minutes or an appropriate disinfectant with proven effectiveness against non-enveloped viruses (eg. Poliovirus, Norovirus, Rotavirus, Feline Calicivirus). Refer to the manufacturer's label to ensure the disinfectant is left on the contaminated surface for the correct contact time. With bleach, this would mean the surface stays wet for at least 10 minutes.
7. Ventilate the room well when using a bleach solution. Make sure it is not mixed with other cleaning agents.
8. Wipe the treated area with paper towels soaked in tap water. Allow the area to dry.
9. Discard contaminated paper towels, gloves and other disposable equipment in a plastic lined garbage bin. Immediately tie and place with regular trash. Take care not to contaminate other surfaces during this process. Change gloves if needed.
10. Practice hand hygiene, either with soap and water or an alcohol-based hand rub of at least 60% concentration, for 15 seconds after gloves are removed. If the hands are visibly soiled, then soap and water should be used over a hand rub.
11. If an injury occurs during the cleaning process, such as a skin puncture with a blood-contaminated sharp object, seek medical attention immediately. Any occurrence that takes place in a workplace should be reported to the occupational health and safety representative.

### Mixing a 1:10 Bleach Solution

100 mL bleach: 900 mL of water  
(1 cup of bleach: 9 cups of water).  
Contact time on surface is 10 minutes

For more information call the  
Communicable Disease Team at ext. 8809