



Cleaning Blood or Body Fluids on Hard Surfaces

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

1. Wear appropriate personal protective equipment (PPE), including disposable gloves, protective eyewear, and a fluid resistant gown when cleaning up a spill. Eyeglasses are not considered to be protective eyewear.
2. Restrict any activity around the spill until the area has been cleaned/disinfected and is completely dry.
3. 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.
4. Clean the spill area with paper towel to remove most of the spill. Disinfectants cannot work properly if the surface has blood or other body fluids on it. Cloth towels should not be used unless they are to be thrown out.
5. Discard the paper towel soaked with the blood, vomit, feces or fluid in a plastic-lined garbage bin.
6. Care must be taken to avoid splashing or spraying during the clean-up process.
7. 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 (e.g. Poliovirus, Norovirus, Rotavirus, Feline Calicivirus). Refer to the manufacturer's instructions for use on the label of the product 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.
8. Ventilate the room well when using a bleach solution and make sure it is not mixed with other cleaning agents.
9. Wipe the treated area with paper towels soaked in tap water. Allow the area to air dry.
10. 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.
11. 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.
12. 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
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For more information call the Infectious
Diseases Team at ext. 8809