



## **BIOLOGICAL SPILLAGES: BODILY FLUIDS CLEAN-UP PROCEDURE**

### **1. Introduction**

Biological spillages can fall within 2 types:

- Infectious material which has been handled or generated within a laboratory eg liquid cultures of micro-organisms which is **not** covered in this safety note or
- Involving human or animal bodily fluids or materials such as blood, urine, vomit or faeces either accidentally or maliciously spilled

In general any bodily fluid must be regarded as being potentially infectious and should be treated as such. Care must be employed to avoid splashing. Where there is a risk, appropriate face masks should be used. Any splashes of blood or bodily fluid on the skin should be washed off immediately with soap and water.

A chlorine based disinfectant is commonly used because it will be effective against a wide range of organisms even though it is rapidly inactivated by organic material.

If there is broken glass, this should be picked up by disposable forceps or a plastic scoop and disposed of in a proprietary sharps box.

Two protocols are outlined below, one for non laboratory environments and one for laboratory environments. A risk assessment should also be considered depending on the extent of the spillage.

### **2. Non Laboratory environment**

When a minor accident involving loss or spillage has occurred it is recommended that, where practicable, the person responsible should clean it up and decontaminate the area.

When the person is unknown or not capable of doing so, then the person tasked with the clean up must wear personal protective equipment, single-use disposable gloves and for large volumes of matter plastic aprons and overshoes.

Proprietary commercial spill kits are available and recommended suppliers are given at the end of the Safety Note. Mops should not be used to clear up bodily fluids because of the risk of cross contamination. Departments can produce their own spill kits using the lists provided. Although bleach is recommended for use as a disinfectant, if there is no specialist disinfectant available, it is not permitted in halls because of the hazard of chlorine being released if mixed with other chemicals or used in confined spaces. Alternative disinfectants can be used. Concentrated disinfectants are often advantageous as they last longer but do require the correct dilution to be made up according to manufacturer's instructions. Ready for use disinfectants do go off fairly quickly and need to be replaced frequently.

#### **Use of bodily fluid spillage kits**

These are designed to help decontaminate blood, vomit and faecal spillages. In general the equipment to be used should include (typical absorbent capacity 1 litre):

- Absorbent material
- Disposable gloves
- Dustpan and brush
- Apron/over sleeves
- Disinfectant wipes
- Disposable/biohazard bag
- Disinfectant
- Instructions

### **General instructions (or follow spill kit instructions directly)**

- Put on protective clothing.
- Place warning signs/cones if necessary to warn others of hazard.
- Cover blood spillage with absorbent material or if not available disposable paper towels or cloths and apply disinfectant.
- Leave for 3 minutes, then clean up the contaminated paper towels or cloths and place them in the disposal/biohazard bag.
- Thoroughly wash the area with detergent and hot water and dry.
- Clean and disinfect dustpan and brush.
- If the spillage is on carpet, adopt the same procedure but do not use bleach, just hot water and detergent. For carpet spillages, a University nominated contractor Robin Reed will thoroughly cleanse and treat carpets. See section 5 for contact details.
- When cleaning faeces, vomit or urine follow same guidance and if possible scoop up excess fluid and dispose of down the toilet. The area can then be washed with hot water and detergent and thoroughly dried
- As this can be a particularly unpleasant job, some halls/departments may wish to only request staff to carry out this duties to which additional payment may be considered. This is a matter for the hall/departmental management.

### **3) Laboratory environment (example given by AMS)**

#### Microbiological Spillage Kit

#### **Contents:**

- Eye shield
- Empty 5l container
- 2 Sachets of **Virkon**
- Protective gloves
- 2 Large autoclave bags
- 1 Roll paper towel
- 1 Dustpan and brush
- 2 Absorbent pillows/mini-booms

#### **Instructions For Use:**

- Put on gloves and eye shield.
- Place pillows/mini-booms around spillage to contain liquid.
- Alert other staff by placing cones at scene.
- Add sachet of Virkon to the 5l container then fill with tap water, mix well. (1% solution)
- Sprinkle the other sachet of Virkon directly onto the spillage leave for 3 minutes.
- Scrape powder (use dust-pan) into an autoclave bag for disposal.
- Wash and disinfect the area with the diluted Virkon.
- Clean and leave the area leave dry.
- Take spillage material, including dust-pan and brush, to autoclave room.
- Inform supervisor of incident.

**Please notify relevant member of staff for replacement.**

**Replace the Virkon when passed expiry date.**

**All laboratory spillages of Hazard group 2 (or higher) organisms must be reported on an Incident Report Form**

#### **4) Correct waste disposal**

Any waste that is not disposed of down the toilet should be placed in Biohazard bags and treated as biological waste.

Biological waste must always be incinerated and not placed in the ordinary waste skips. A waste company that can deal with biological waste is given in section 5) below

#### **5) Examples of Service Providers**

##### **Spill kit provider (SUPC contract)**

Arco Wessex  
PO Box 151 Omega Industrial park  
Electron Way  
Chandlers ford  
Eastleigh  
Hants  
SO53 4ZS  
Tel: 0238 027 0000

##### **Biological waste contractor**

Select Environmental Services  
6 Commercial Road  
Reading  
RG2 0QZ  
0118 975 9000

##### **Carpet cleaner**

Robin Reed  
29 Blackwater Close  
Spencers Wood  
Reading  
RG7 1DT  
0118 9885194

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