

**SUNY Downstate Medical Center -University Hospital  
of Brooklyn Network  
Department of Pathology Policy and Procedure**



**Subject: LAB 37 INFECTIOUS AND CHEMICAL MATERIAL SPILLS**

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Supporting Documents:

Approval Workgroup: Laboratory Administration  
Approval Group

Revision: 3

## I. PURPOSE:

### General Guidelines:

This decontamination procedure applies only to bench, floor, or other **SURFACE** spills.

Splashes and spills of infectious material are to be taken care of **IMMEDIATELY**.

Notify a supervisor immediately if the spill is very large or in some way presents and unusual hazard.

10% Clorox solution is a good all-purpose disinfectant and is particularly good for inactivating many organisms including hepatitis B virus and HIV. It is prepared by dilution household Clorox 1:10 with water; Clorox may be used in full strength in an emergency. Care must be taken not to splash it on the skin or in the eyes. Protective clothing and goggles are available for handling such chemicals.

Always use gloves and protective clothing during a clean-up procedure. Safety goggles, masks and impermeable protective gowns are available.

If you or your clothing has become contaminated, notify the supervisor immediately. Remove the contaminated clothing as soon as possible and wash the exposed skin with soap and water.

If it is necessary to leave the area before decontamination has been completed, post a sign and restrict unnecessary personnel from the area.

After decontamination, remember to wipe down water faucets, telephones, door knobs, etc., which may have been inadvertently contaminated.

## II. PROCEDURE:

### A. To Clean Splashes:

1. Wipe up immediately with gauze or paper towels soaked with 10% Clorox solution.
2. Discard material, including gloves, into the red biohazard bags; sharps are placed in the red biohazard containers aka "sharps containers".
3. Wash hands.

### B. To Clean Large Infectious Spills Using the Vital 1 Skill Kit:

1. Put on disposable gown immediately.
2. Completely cover the spill with Vital I Absorbent Beads from the white pouch. (In an emergency clean-up, this compound instantly deodorizes and binds vomit, urine, feces, blood and other body substances. The Absorbent Beads contain 10,000ppm of stabilized chlorine).
3. When a semi-solid forms, use the pick-up shovel to place the congealed fluid back into the white bag.
4. Seal the white bag tightly by using the ties provided.
5. Apply the ready to use germicidal towelette to the contaminated area and wipe.
6. Dispose of all materials (used germicidal towelette, white bag, shovel, packet, wiping cloth and gloves) in the red plastic bag and secure with a tie.

7. Discard the red bag in an appropriate container for infected solid waste as required by local regulations.
8. Wipe hands with antiseptic hand wipe towelette which provides rapid bactericidal action and has a persistent antimicrobial effect against a wide range of microorganisms. Allow to air dry.
9. Report the incident immediately to the proper authorities.

**C. To Clean Chemical Spills using the **Spill-X** spill kit:**

1. Isolate the spill area.
2. Notify the proper authorities.
3. Wear appropriate personal protective equipment: supplied items include goggles, gloves and a respirator.
4. Identify the spill as acid, caustic or solvent by referring to labels, supervisors or Material Safety Data Sheets (MSDS).  
Caution: If flammable, remove sources of ignition.
5. Select the agent:
  - a. Spill-X-A (acid neutralizer) for acid spills
  - b. Spill-X-C (caustic neutralizer) for caustic spills
  - c. Spill-X-S (solvent absorbent) for solvent spills
  - d. Spill-X-FP (Formaldehyde Polymerizer)
6. Encircle the spill by applying the agent inward at the recommended rate.
7. Cover the spill by applying the agent inward at the recommended rate.
8. Mix the agent thoroughly into the spill, wait five (5) minutes until the reaction stops and the mixture cools.
9. If the spill was acid or base, check the spill residue pH and add or agent if necessary; if a spill is solvent, make sure spill is fully absorbed into a dry powder.
10. Label the disposal bag and place and treated spill residue into the bag; decontaminate gloves, scraper, and scoop as required.
11. Dispose of the material along UHB guidelines and in accordance with all applicable regulations.

**D.** For larger spills and for all radiation, biohazards, toxic and volatile chemicals or gases, evacuate the area. Call the Department of Public Safety at extension 2626 of the Department of Environmental Health and Safety at extension 2395 or 1216 during regular working hours, identify spill or leak area, and state what type of spill or leak it is. Do not try to re-enter the area until emergency aid arrives.

**E.** Waste which is collected must be disposed of through an approved method. Contact the chemical Safety Officer at 270-1216 for proper waste disposal techniques.

### **III. REFERENCES:**

Vital 1 Emergency Response System insert.  
Spill-X, Spill Kit Treatment Guide, 1991.

### **IV. REVISED: 4/06**

Policy and Procedure renamed to Infectious and Chemical Material Spills and numbered as LAB-36