



GUIDANCE ON BODILY FLUID SPILAGES



Introduction

Biological spillages are defined as any spillage;

- 1 Involving human or animal bodily fluids or materials such as blood, urine, vomit or faeces either accidentally or maliciously spilled

All bodily fluids must be regarded as being potentially infectious and should be treated as such. Care must be employed to avoid splashing. Risk assessments must be undertaken before the clean up begins, as the assessment will identify the personal protection equipment that is required such as;

- 1 Face masks
- 2 Gloves

Any splashes of blood or bodily fluid that comes into contact with 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.

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.

Mops should **not** be used to clear up bodily fluids because of the risk of cross contamination.

Although bleach is recommended for use as a disinfectant, (if there is no specialist disinfectant available), it must be used with extreme caution inside premises/buildings because of being used in confine spaces and/or the hazard of chlorine being released if mixed with other chemicals.

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.

2. Use of bodily fluid spillage kits

Individual Departments can make up spillage kits depending on the levels of contaminated areas, for example the maintenance departments will require a larger spillage kit for cleaning up a sewer drain spillage than the rides dept will need for a person vomiting on a ride. 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

- 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.



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- 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 a carpet, adopt the same procedure but do not use bleach, just hot water and detergent.
- 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.
- When cleaning a sewer drain spillage, if possible reduce the amount of spillage in the area by brushing the spillage back into the drain and if possible wash down the drain with a hose. It is then possible to lay dry sand over the area to absorb the rest of the contaminated fluids. Remove the absorbed fluids, hose down the area and disinfect.

3. Correct waste disposal

Any waste that is not disposed of down the toilet or drain should be placed in bags and disposed off at the specialist waste skip at the sewage plant. Contact the Health and Safety Department for access to the sewage plant compound.