



Biological Spill Procedures

Step 1: Assess the Spill

Make a quick but thorough assessment of the spill. Make note of what has spilled, the approximate quantity of material, and what surfaces have been contaminated. Cordon off the spill area and do not walk through, or allow others to walk through, the spilled material.

Step 2: Don Required Personal Protective Equipment

Before touching any of the spilled materials, you must don the appropriate personnel protective equipment (PPE). These items include nitrile gloves, a lab coat, and eye and/or face protection.

Step 3: Cover the Spill

Cover the spill with absorbent material to contain any liquids.

Step 4: Disinfect

Apply a disinfectant to the spill area, allowing a kill time of 20 to 30 minutes to ensure effectiveness. We use 70% ethanol OR a 1:10 solution of freshly-made bleach. Do not use both or mix disinfectants.

Step 5: Remove Sharps and Solid Masses

Carefully remove sharps, if any are present, and place them in a designated sharps container. Also, remove any solid masses and place in an appropriate disposal container.

Step 6: Remove the Spill

When the absorbent material is saturated or there is no visible liquid remaining from the spill, remove the absorbent material and place it in a designated biohazard receptacle.

Step 7: Dispose

Place saturated disinfecting materials and contaminated personal protective equipment into a biohazard bag or container.