

Biohazardous Spill Clean-up

1. If this is a moderate to high hazard spill reportable to the Biological Safety Office **before clean-up** (through the EH&S main number **530 752 1493**), have you reported it?
2. Have you confirmed that appropriate PPE is available?
3. Have you checked yourself and others nearby the spill for spatter or shoe contamination?
4. Have you alerted the lab personnel and passersby (for spills in corridors) and evacuated the lab if appropriate?
5. Have you located the spill kit and verified that you have everything you need?
6. For spills outside of the biological safety cabinet, have you allowed 30 minutes settling time?
7. Are you trained in biohazardous spill clean-up?

If you answered “yes” to questions 1-7 and it is appropriate for you to clean up the spill, you may proceed as outlined below:

- A. Wear appropriate PPE to clean spills.
- B. If the spill involved broken glass, pick up the large pieces with the forceps or egg tongs and dispose in a hard-walled sharps container. Handle with care!
- C. Distribute paper towels around the periphery of the spill, then towards the center. Use the forceps or egg tongs to push paper towels into recesses where spilled material may have flowed.
- D. Dilute your disinfectant to the appropriate concentration in a spray bottle (if available).
- E. When the spill is fully covered with paper towels, spray or very carefully pour 10% bleach or other approved disinfectant on the paper towels. Avoid generating further aerosols or flooding the spill so much that untreated material may flow.
- F. **Allow at least 30 minutes contact time.**
- G. Pick up the paper towels with large forceps or egg tongs and put them in the appropriate waste bag. Change gloves and put used gloves in bag as well. *Avoid direct contact with the contaminated paper towels, even with gloved hands.*
- H. Spray or carefully pour 10% bleach or other approved disinfectant on the surface residue. Wipe up the residue with paper towels and place in appropriate bag. Small bits and pieces of broken glass should be entrained in the wet paper towels and discarded into the waste bag. Pieces too large or heavy to entrain must be discarded in a sharps container.
- I. Repeat step “H” at least once.
- J. Seal and transport the waste collection bag to the appropriate autoclave or medical waste accumulation site.
- K. If broken glass was disposed in a sharps container, seal the container permanently, decontaminate the exterior with the sprayed liquid disinfectant, and transport the sealed container to a medical waste accumulation site or request a sharps pickup on the Safety Services website (Davis campus)
- L. Clean and disinfect the forceps or egg tongs and any other non-disposable items before returning them to the spill kit. If possible, autoclave the forceps or egg tongs before returning them to the kit.
- M. Report the spill to your supervisor and to the Biological Safety Office