

CLEAN-UP OF SPILLS IN A BIOSAFETY CABINET

Notification Procedures

Notify others in the area to:
- Stay out of the area where the spill occurred for 30 min
- Help with spill clean-up

Where required, seek first-aid or medical assistance.

Alert the Facility Manager.
Notify Security if the area needs to be locked down.

Undertake spill clean-up – see instructions on this poster.

Notify the Principal Investigator and your supervisor.

Notify the IBC as soon as possible after spill clean-up is complete
Ph. Amanda Hight 8313 6105 or Jess Hall 8313 3059

Submit report in UniSafe

Spill Clean-Up Procedures

1. Keep the biosafety cabinet (BSC) running.
2. Inside the BSC, disinfect the outside of your gloves with disinfectant. Remove hands from the cabinet, then remove gloves and wash or sanitise hands.
3. Put on fresh gloves and collect your spill cleanup materials .
4. Prepare fresh solution of sodium hypochlorite (1% available chlorine*) or alternative approved disinfectant.
5. Wet absorbent material with disinfectant solution and place the absorbent material over the spill. Leave the disinfectant on the surface for 10 minutes.
6. After 10 minutes, remove any sharp objects in the spill area using forceps or tweezers and discard in a sharps container. Remove absorbent material and place in biohazard waste bag.
7. Wipe items with disinfectant in the BSC before removing.
8. Wipe down the inside of the biosafety cabinet, including the work area, sides, back and inside of the glass sash with paper towel wetted with disinfectant solution.
9. Check that the spill has not contaminated the sump of the cabinet. Where spilt material has fallen into the sump, add disinfectant solution to cover the sump floor, leave for 10 minutes, then wipe up with clean absorbent material.
10. If you used sodium hypochlorite, wipe all surfaces again with clean water or ethanol to prevent corrosion of stainless-steel surfaces.
11. Place all paper towel waste into a biohazard bin bag.
12. Seal the biohazard bin bag and dispose all waste to the clinical wheelie bin.
13. Remove gloves and dispose to the biohazard waste bin.
14. Remove gown and arrange for decontamination (autoclave or soak in disinfectant) before it is sent to the laundry.
15. Wash hands with soap and water or disinfect using hand sanitiser.
16. Notify the facility managers and the IBC of the spill. The IBC Biosafety Officer shall determine whether further decontamination needs to occur before the cabinet is used.
17. Submit an incident report in UniSafe.

***Important note: Sodium hypochlorite is the preferred disinfectant but should not be used for spills that contain acids, ammonia or formaldehyde. 1% available chlorine is NOT the same as 1% bleach. For bleach containing 12.5% available chlorine (typical lab strength, but check the bottle), a 1:11 dilution of bleach to water is sufficient. For bleach containing 4% available chlorine (typical household strength, but check the bottle), a 1:3 dilution of**