



Biological Spill Kit and Cleanup Job Aid

Biological Spill Kit

Laboratories should prepare and maintain a biological spill response kit. Spill kits are safety items stored in the laboratory and used to clean up blood or OPIM spills. The biological spill kit should include the following:

- Disinfecting solution
- Sharps-handling devices (e.g., forceps or tongs, autoclavable broom, dustpan)
- Paper towels or other suitable absorbent material
- Trash bags (biohazard bags)
- Waterproof utility gloves and latex or nitrile gloves
- Face protection (e.g., face shield or splash goggles and, possibly, disposable respirator)
- Shoe covers
- Disposable coveralls
- Copy of standard operating procedure (SOP) for spills
- Warning sign for spills
- 5-gallon bucket

Biological Spill Cleanup

Always follow your laboratory's SOPs to clean up blood or OPIM spills. General cleaning procedures for a blood or OPIM spill are:

- Post a biological spill sign.
- Wear approved personal protective equipment (e.g., gloves, eye protection, laboratory coat).
- Retrieve the biological spill kit and select items needed to clean up the spill.
- Collect sharp objects with forceps or other mechanical devices and place them in a sharps container.
- Cover the spill with absorbent paper towels or other provided material.
- Slowly pour disinfectant on the absorbent towels, covering the spill and the surface. After use, place them in a biohazard bag.
- Clean the spill site of all visible blood or OPIM using a detergent solution.
- Spray the spill site with 10% household bleach and allow it to air-dry for 15 minutes.
- After the 15-minute contact time, wipe the area with disinfectant-soaked paper towels.
- Place all disposable materials used to decontaminate the spill, as well as any contaminated PPE, in a biohazard bag.
- Decontaminate reusable items with disinfectant.
- Safely remove PPE.
- Wash your hands.

Make every effort to limit the spread of the blood or OPIM spill by isolating the spill area to protect others from exposure.

References:

Safety and Health Topics: Personal Protective Equipment. Occupational Safety and Health Administration, U.S. Dept. of Labor. Accessed March 1, 2023. <https://www.osha.gov/personal-protective-equipment>

This job aid is a component of the free, on-demand CDC training course "Fundamentals of Bloodborne Pathogens." Find the course at reach.cdc.gov/

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