

When cleaning bloodborne pathogen (BBP) hazards, it is essential to follow strict safety protocols to prevent exposure and ensure the cleanup is thorough and compliant with health and safety standards. This guide will walk you through the necessary steps for safely cleaning areas contaminated with blood or other potentially infectious materials (OPIM). This guide follows OSHA and GBAC standards.

Step 1: Assess the Situation

- Ensure Safety First: Before entering the contaminated area, assess the situation and evaluate the level of contamination. If necessary, contact your direct Manager (if the spill is large or if there are any serious injuries).

Step 2: Gather Necessary PPE (Personal Protective Equipment)

PPE is crucial when handling bloodborne pathogens. Always wear the following, which can be found in the provided Pathogen Safety Kits:

- Gloves: Heavy-duty nitrile or latex gloves (double gloves if necessary).
- Face Protection: Goggles or face shield to protect eyes and face from splashes.
- Protective Clothing: A fluid-resistant gown or apron to cover your clothing.
- Shoe Covers: For protection against bloodborne pathogen contamination on your footwear.
- Respiratory Protection: If aerosolized material is a concern, use an N95 respirator or other appropriate protection.

Step 3: Establish a Safe Work Zone

- Restrict Access: Use signs or cones to block off the affected area to prevent unauthorized access and further contamination.

Step 4: Prepare Cleaning Supplies

Gather the following supplies for cleaning:

- EPA-Registered Disinfectant: Ensure the disinfectant is effective against bloodborne pathogens, such as those listed as effective against HIV, Hepatitis B, and Hepatitis C.
- Absorbent Materials: Paper towels, absorbent pads, or spill kits designed to absorb bodily fluids.
- Biohazard Disposal Bags: Clearly labeled bags for disposing of contaminated materials.
- Disinfecting Wipes: For wiping down surfaces after initial cleanup.
- Buckets, Mops, and Towels: For wet cleaning, disinfecting, and wiping.

Step 5: Clean Up the Blood Spill

- Don Gloves and PPE: Always wear gloves, goggles, and other protective equipment before you begin cleaning.
- Absorb the Spill: Use absorbent materials (e.g., paper towels or absorbent pads) to soak up the blood or bodily fluid. Start at the outer edges and work toward the center to avoid spreading the contamination.
- Dispose of Absorbent Materials: Place used absorbent materials in a biohazard waste bag immediately. Use provided scoop or pan and broom to remove absorbent materials.

- **Disinfect the Area:** Once the pathogen has been absorbed and removed, apply the appropriate disinfectant to the contaminated surface. Allow the disinfectant to sit for the recommended contact time (usually 10 minutes) to ensure thorough deactivation of pathogens.
- **Scrub and Clean Surfaces:** After disinfecting, scrub any surfaces to remove remaining debris or contamination, then wipe with clean towels or disinfecting wipes.

Step 6: Handle Contaminated Materials Properly

- **Dispose of Contaminated Materials:** Place all used materials (gloves, towels, mop heads, etc.) into a biohazard bag.
- **Seal the Waste Bags:** Make sure that biohazard bags are securely tied and sealed before disposal to prevent leakage or accidental exposure.
- **Remove the Waste:** Ensure the biohazard waste bags are clearly labeled with appropriate hazard warning symbols and disposed of according to local regulations.

Step 7: Decontaminate Tools and Equipment

- **Clean and Disinfect Tools:** After the cleanup, thoroughly disinfect any tools or equipment used (e.g., mop, bucket, spray bottles).

Step 8: Remove and Dispose of PPE

- **Remove PPE Properly:** Start by removing gloves, and avoid touching the outside of the gloves. Dispose of them in a biohazard bag immediately.
- **Wash Hands Thoroughly:** After removing PPE, wash hands with soap and water for at least 20 seconds, even if gloves were worn.

Step 9: Final Inspection and Documentation

- **Inspect the Area:** After cleaning, perform a thorough inspection of the cleaned area to ensure all contamination has been removed and disinfected.
- **Document the Incident:** Record the date, time, nature of the contamination, and the cleaning process performed. This helps ensure proper record-keeping and compliance with safety standards.
- **Report Any Issues:** If there are concerns about the cleanup or exposure, report them to your direct Manager immediately.

Step 10: Post-Cleanup Protocol

- **Monitor Health:** Be aware of any symptoms of exposure, such as cuts, rashes, or eye irritation. Seek medical attention if necessary.

By following these steps carefully and consistently, you will ensure both your safety and the safety of others in the area, while effectively cleaning up bloodborne pathogen hazards.