

## **Cleaning Bodily Fluids Policy and Procedure**

This describes good practice for clearing body fluids - vomit, faeces, blood etc. It covers the key points you need to follow to help reduce exposure to an acceptable level.

### **Hazards**

- Body fluids are a source of infectious micro-organisms (bacteria, viruses and fungi).
- The main risk is infection following hand to mouth/ nose/ eye contact.
- There is also a risk of infection via broken skin (cuts or scratches).
- Cleaning products may contain hazardous substances such as biocides and surfactants.
- Health effects from cleaning products include irritation, dermatitis and breathing problems.

### **Access**

- Erect wet floor surface signage.

### **Storage**

- Store cleaning products and materials in a designated area.

### **Equipment and Procedures**

#### **Control Equipment**

- Paper towels for mopping up spillages
- Nappy bags
- Detergent and anti-bacterial spray
- Bucket with disinfectant and long-handled brushes for personal decontamination at the exit point.

#### **Control Procedures**

- Ensure a good standard of general ventilation
- Scrape up residues into a closable container, for safe disposal.
- Bag up contaminated material that needs laundry or disposal, e.g. bedding, clothing.
- Wash surfaces clean with detergent before disinfectant.
- Heavily fouled soft furnishings may need bagging for disposal as clinical waste.

#### **First Aid**

- Sterile wipes and clean water to cleanse wounds.
- Sterile adhesive waterproof dressings.

#### **Personal Protective Equipment (PPE)**

- Disposable plastic aprons
- Disposable overshoes
- Waterproof, abrasion-resistant gloves
- Ensure that all cuts and abrasions are covered with a waterproof dressing before work begins.

#### **Cleaning and housekeeping**

##### **Decontamination**

- Assume that everything that might be contacted by body fluids is contaminated.

- Clean and disinfect the area after the task.
- Change out of work clothing before exiting the area.
- Provide closable bags for all contaminated PPE.
- Disinfect or sterilise reusable work equipment.
- Ensure that waste from the cleaning of body fluids is disposed of safely, either using the toilet, outdoors waste bin or indoors nappy bin.
- Caution: If soiled, bag up work clothes for laundry as a separate load.

### Personal decontamination and skin care

- Wash before eating or drinking, and after touching any surface or object that might be contaminated.
- Use warm soapy water, soft paper, fabric towels or hot air for drying. Avoid abrasive cleaners.
- Follow hand wash posters to effectively de-contaminate skin.

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