

Blood and body fluid spillages

e.g. blood, urine, faeces, vomit, saliva, nasal secretions, breast milk

It is important that spillages of blood, faeces, vomit or other body fluids are dealt with immediately as they pose a risk of transmission of infection and disease, e.g. blood borne viruses (such as Hepatitis B) and diarrhoea and/or vomiting (such as Norovirus).

Settings should ensure that arrangements and protocols are in place to deal with these spillages immediately and appropriately. (See flowchart).

Key Points

- Ensure clear policies and procedures are in place to effectively manage blood and body fluid spillages.
- Staff are trained in the safe and effective management of blood and body fluid spillages.
- Personal protective equipment (PPE) is worn.
- Spillage kits containing disposable gloves, aprons and cloths; spill granules and instructions; and scoop are available.
- A named person is responsible for checking and replenishing spillage kits regularly, when they have been used, or have passed expiry dates.

Do

- ✓ Ensure adequate supplies of spillage kits are available at all times.
- ✓ Ensure a suitable disinfectant is used, such as chlorine releasing agents at the correct concentration.
- ✓ Follow manufacturer's instructions for disinfectant being used.
- ✓ Store all chemicals safely in accordance with *COSHH (Control of Substances Hazardous to Health, 2002)*.
- ✓ Deal with spillages immediately to reduce risks of contamination and disease transmission.
- ✓ Ensure area is well ventilated if using chemicals.
- ✓ Ensure appropriate protective clothing is worn.
- ✓ Dispose of soiled cleaning cloths and protective clothing into waste bag.
- ✓ Wash your hands.

Do Not

- × Use reusable cloths or mops to clean up spillages of blood or body fluids.

SPILL KIT EXAMPLE (or purchase one)

- Disposable aprons and gloves
- Scoop
- Paper towels
- Single use cloths
- Detergent / disinfectant
- Spill granules / instructions
- Single use mop (large areas only)
- Waste bin

**Procedure for dealing with body fluid spillages
e.g. blood, urine, faeces,
vomit, saliva, nasal secretions, breast milk**

Be careful not to get any of the fluid you are cleaning up in your eyes, nose, mouth or any open sores you may have.

