

## Blood and Body Fluid Spillages



### In the event of **blood or blood-stained body fluid** spillages:

- Disinfect spillages promptly and clean the affected area to reduce the risk of infection.
- Blood spillage kits should be used, following the manufacturer's guidance (alternatively prepare and use a chlorine-based disinfection solution).

### Action for **blood or blood-stained body fluid** spillages:

- Wear a disposable apron and gloves (and face protection if there is a risk of splashing to the face).
- Ventilate the area eg open windows and doors, as fumes will be released from the chlorine.
- Cover the spill with paper towels.
- Pour the solution over the top of the paper towels. Leave the required contact time which is specified on the container. Do not use on soft furnishings or carpets.
- Clear away paper towels and spillage; dispose as infectious/clinical waste in a healthcare setting. In a service users own home dispose as household waste.
- With a disposable cloth, wash the area using detergent and warm water, then dry with paper towels.
- Dispose of cloth and paper towels as above.
- Remove PPE and dispose of as above.
- Wash hand thoroughly to prevent the risk of transmission of infection.

### In the event of **body fluids** spillages:

- Clean up body fluids e.g. urine, faeces (stools), vomit, promptly and then disinfect the affected area to reduce the risk of infection.
- Body fluid spillage kits should be used following the manufacturers guidance, alternatively prepare a chlorine based disinfection solution and use.

### Action for **body fluid** spillages:

**Do not use a solution containing chlorine directly on urine as toxic fumes will be released.**

- Wear a disposable apron and gloves (wear facial protection if there is a risk of splashing to the face).
- Ventilate the area e.g. open windows and doors, as fumes will be released from the chlorine.
- Soak up any excess liquid or clean up any solid material using paper towels.
- In a healthcare setting - clear away paper towels and spillage, then dispose of as infectious/clinical waste. In a service users own home – dispose of as household waste.

- With a disposable cloth, wash the area using detergent and warm water, then dry with paper towels. Do not use the chlorine solution on soft furnishings or carpets.
- Dispose of cloth and paper towels as above.
- Remove PPE and dispose of as above.
- Wash your hands thoroughly to reduce the risk of picking up an infection.

## Use of disinfectant



- Always use the appropriate personal protective equipment (PPE) eg disposable apron and gloves, and wear facial protection if there is a risk of splashing to the face.
- Some disinfectants are supplied as tablets and must be made up with the specified amount of water using a diluter bottle in order to achieve the correct concentration.
- If the dilution of a chlorine-based disinfectants is incorrect and a weak solution is used, any blood-borne virus eg Hepatitis B, Hepatitis C and HIV, will not be killed. If the solution is too strong, the equipment or surfaces may be damaged.
- As these disinfectants become less effective after 24 hours, a new solution should be made each day.
- To ensure germs are killed, always leave chlorine-based disinfectant solution for the correct contact time as specified on the container.
- **Do not use chlorine based-disinfectant solution directly on urine as toxic fumes will be released.**

## Test your knowledge

Test your knowledge		
Please tick the correct answer	Yes	No
1. Is it important to leave a chlorine-based disinfectant solution for the correct contact time on a blood or blood-stained body fluid spillage?		
2. Should an area be ventilated when using a chlorine-based disinfectant solution?		
3. Should a chlorine-based disinfectant solution be placed directly on urine?		

## Remember:

- Personal protective equipment (PPE) should always be worn when dealing with blood or body fluid spillages.
- Wear facial protection if there is a risk of splashing to the face.
- To ensure micro-organisms are killed, always leave chlorine-based disinfectant solutions for the correct contact time on blood or blood-stained body fluid spillages.
- Do not use a chlorine-based disinfectant solution directly on urine as toxic fumes will be released.

<b>Factsheet Activity</b> <i>Please tick appropriate box when activity has been completed</i>	
Check that your disinfectants or spillage kits are within the manufacturer's expiry date.	
Check that colleagues know how to deal with a spillage of blood and body fluids.	