

Tattooing and body piercing guidance

PART B – Appendix 06

Protocol for cleaning up blood or a blood stained body fluid spill

CLEANING UP BLOOD OR A BLOOD STAINED BODY FLUID SPILL

- Prevent access to the area containing the spillage until it has been safely dealt with.
- Obtain chlorine based spill kit.
- Put on apron and gloves
- Apply disinfectant granules to the spill, this congeals the spill to enable easier cleaning of the area OR make up and use the disinfectant solution as per product instructions to a dilution of 10,000ppm available chlorine. Leave in place for the designated exposure time (at least two minutes). Ensure the surface can tolerate chlorine.

DO NOT USE MOPS TO CLEAN UP BLOOD.

- Use the scoop and scraper (or disposable paper towels) to pick up the congealed body fluid and place in the appropriate waste bag.
- Using the disposable paper towels and disinfectant solution clean area thoroughly and dry afterwards. Detergent and warm water can also be used afterwards.
- Ensure all equipment used is disposed of in the appropriate waste bag and then finally remove gloves and apron and place in the waste bag.
- Wash hands.
- Ensure that the waste bag is placed in the appropriate disposal bin/container immediately after use.
- Damp-mop the affected area.

MANAGING BLOOD SPOTS

Apply chlorine based disinfectant solution to a wet paper towel and clean spillage area. Discard waste as above.

IF BLOOD/BODY FLUID SPLASHES INTO THE EYES OR MOUTH

Rinse freely with water. Seek immediate medical advice if the splash gets into the mucous membrane.

BLOOD SPILLS ON CLOTHING

Change clothes (immediately if possible) and place into a plastic bag. Wash clothes as soon as possible in a hot cycle.

CLEANING UP VOMIT OR URINE SPILLS

Chlorine-based disinfectants will give off highly toxic gas if mixed with acidic substances. Ideally chlorine-based products should not be used on vomit and urine due to the slight risk of chlorine gas being released. To clean up vomit or urine spills, follow the same process as above but replace chlorine-based disinfectant granules with a non-chlorine based product, or use paper towels to absorb as much of the spillage as possible. Always clean areas with detergent and warm water. A chlorine-based disinfectant can be used to disinfect the area but only after the urine/vomit has been cleaned up.

IMPORTANT NOTE

Chlorine-based disinfectants/absorbent granules such as sodium dichloroisocyanurate (NaDCC) should not be used on urine or vomit spills. NEVER mix chlorine-based disinfectants with any other cleaning/disinfectants. Hypochlorite solutions may bleach fabrics and other materials, as well as corrode metals, so care is needed regarding which surfaces they can be used upon.

Reference

National Patient Safety Agency (2009). The Revised Healthcare Cleaning Manual. (<http://www.nrls.npsa.nhs.uk/resources/?EntryId45=61830>)