

# Procedures for spills of blood and other body substances

## Work Health and Safety Directorate



Spills of body fluids: blood, faeces, nasal and eye discharges, saliva and vomit on the ground, floors, furniture or equipment must be isolated immediately and cleaned up appropriately.

## When cleaning a spill

- Where appropriate, remove bystanders in the immediate vicinity from the area until the area is cleaned
- Inspect your hands for any cuts or abrasions and ensure they are securely covered with water proof dressings
- Wear disposable gloves and protective clothing
- Pick up broken glass or any other sharp objects included in the spill with tongs and dispose of into an approved sharps container
- Absorbent materials, such as paper towels, or sawdust, should be used to absorb and contain the bulk of the spill
- Where required, wipe up blood and/or body substances using disposable wipes or paper towels
- Ensure that cleaning employees clean the site with detergent and warm water. They should use disposable wipes or paper towels and rinse and dry surfaces (carpeted areas should be shampooed).

## After cleaning up a spill

- Place all soiled materials in a plastic bag, tied securely, then placed inside a second plastic bag and tied securely
- Remove and dispose of gloves after task is completed and wash hands with soap and warm water
- Only reuse protective eyewear after cleaning with soap and water
- Clean mops used to clean up body fluids in a bucket or similar container (not a kitchen sink), rinse with a disinfecting solution and dry
- Ensure contaminated clothing is hot laundered (minimum 60°C) i.e. for blood stains; soak in lukewarm water to remove the stain first, then hot launder.

## Further information

Contact your WHS team  
or ring 1800 811 523

## Infection control procedures