

# Blood and Body Fluid Spills Clean-Up

All body fluids, including blood, must be treated as infectious and handled cautiously. Only knowledgeable individuals should perform the clean-up procedure.

## *CLEAN-UP PROCEDURE*

### *A. Cement and Impervious Surfaces*

Restrict access to the affected area and do not leave the contaminated area unattended. A hazard remains until the entire contaminated area and the soiled cleaning equipment have been disinfected or disposed of safely.



1. Wear gloves (preferably disposable) made with impervious material to protect your hands. Torn gloves should not be used, and avoid tearing your gloves on equipment or sharp objects. Use additional personal protection equipment, as needed, to protect personal clothing, lips and eyes.
2. Blot excess fluid using paper towels or disposable rags/cloths. Mops are not recommended because they are difficult to clean and there may be possible aerosol generation.
3. Flood the affected area generously with a bleach solution (1 part bleach to 9 parts water) and let sit for a minimum of 10 minutes.
4. Blot up the bleach solution with fresh paper towels or disposable rags/cloths.
5. Place all used paper towels and rags/cloths in a sturdy leak-proof garbage bag. If disposable gloves are used, remove and discard the gloves at this point. Dispose the plastic bag into the regular trash.
6. After cleaning the area, wash hands thoroughly with soap and water.



### *B. Carpet*

If the spill occurs in a carpeted area, do not use a bleach solution as it can cause discoloration. Use a low level sanitizer such as quaternary ammonium compounds, Pine Sol® or others to clean the carpet. If the spill is heavy, you might want to replace the affected area of the carpet.

### **C. Skating Rinks' Ice Surfaces**

1. Blood spills on frozen surfaces present a different situation, but the basic clean-up and precautionary principles are similar.
2. Wear gloves (preferably disposable), made with impervious material to protect your hands. Torn gloves should not be used, and avoid tearing your gloves on equipment or sharp objects. Use additional personal protection equipment, as needed, to protect personal clothing, lips and eyes.
3. Gently remove frozen blood with an ice scraper. To prevent frozen blood from scattering, scrape frozen blood inward towards the centre of the spill.
4. Discard frozen blood and contaminated ice into a pail, let it melt and dispose into the melt pit or a toilet.

### **D. Swimming Pool**

Blood-borne pathogens (e.g. Hepatitis B virus or HIV) do not survive long when diluted into properly chlorinated pool water. Scientists are not aware of any of these pathogens transmitted to swimmers from a blood spill in a pool. Therefore, pool closure is not needed after a blood spill. However, some pool staff choose to do so temporarily to satisfy patrons.

If you have any questions regarding the above, please contact nearest Environmental Public Health office or Health Link Alberta, toll free at 1-866-408-LINK (5465).

**For more information, please contact your nearest Environmental Public Health office.**

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4EPHD-10-009  
Created: Jan/01  
Revised: Jul/06  
Updated: Dec/10