



Lancashire

County
Council



Cleaning spillages

LCC IPC Guidance

Next Review October 2024

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Cleaning spillages

- All blood and body fluids should be regarded as infectious.
- Employees must be trained in the correct management of blood and body fluid spillages.
- Before handling or cleaning blood, body fluids or any potentially contaminated products appropriate personal protective equipment (PPE) must be worn. As a minimum disposable gloves and plastic apron must be worn.
- Use of commercial spillage kit if available (follow specific instructions from manufacturers).
- Cover the spillage with disposable absorbent paper towels to soak up the excess fluid promptly, dispose of the paper towels in the appropriate waste bin as per service policy.
- Clean and rinse the area thoroughly using appropriate disinfecting products.
- Dispose of all cleaning materials and disposable PPE in the appropriate waste bag and tie securely.
- Laundry/clothing contaminated with blood or other body fluids must be handled with care using appropriate PPE.
- Contaminated laundry/clothing should be removed into a red water soluble (alginate) bag.
- Washing must be done at the earliest opportunity.
- A biological washing detergent is recommended, and the wash cycle must be as hot as the clothing will allow. It is recommended that no other articles are added to this wash, to allow full agitation, rinsing and dilution.
- Tumble drying and ironing will further assist the removal of micro-organisms through thermal disinfection.
- If the incident involves a spillage of blood on soft furnishings and carpets these must be taken out of use and steam cleaned.
- Maintaining a clean environment is crucial to prevent the spread of infection.
- Each establishment/service must have in place cleaning schedules, this will include the cleaning of equipment, furniture, floors, curtains, etc.

