

# 5 Step General Process for Cleaning Spills of Blood or Body Fluids



**Step 1:** Wear appropriate PPE before you begin cleaning the spill.

**Step 2:** Confine the spill and wipe it immediately with absorbent (paper) towels, cloths, or absorbent granules (if available) that are spread over the spill to solidify the blood or body fluid (*all should then be disposed as infectious waste*).

**Step 3:** Clean thoroughly, using neutral detergent and warm water solution.



**Step 4:** Disinfect by using a facility-approved intermediate-level disinfectant

- a. Typically, chlorine-based disinfectants at 500-5000ppm free chlorine (1:100 or 1:10 dilution of 5% chlorine-bleach; depending on the size of the spill) are adequate for disinfecting spills (however, do not use chlorine-based disinfectants on urine spills).
- b. Take care to allow the disinfectant to remain wet on the surface for the required contact time (e.g., 10 minutes) and then rinse the area with clean water to remove the disinfectant residue (if required).



**Step 5:** Immediately send all reusable supplies and equipment (e.g., cleaning cloths, mops) for reprocessing (i.e., cleaning and disinfection) after the spill is cleaned up.

This five step general process for cleaning spills of blood or body fluids was taken from this **Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC)** website:  
<https://www.cdc.gov/healthcare-associated-infections/hcp/cleaning-global/procedures.html>

