



## Disinfecting Body Fluids in Non-Healthcare Settings

Decontamination removes or destroys contamination so that infectious agents or other contaminants cannot reach a susceptible site in sufficient quantities to cause infection, or other harmful response. The following information is appropriate for non-healthcare settings.

**Use Appropriate Protection:** Gloves should be used whenever possible. Wearing protective sleeve, leg, and shoe coverings or fluid-resistant or fluid-impermeable coveralls further reduces the risk of contact with any infectious material.

**Appropriate Disinfectants:** **Bleach** is one of the most commonly used chemicals for disinfection. Since a solution of bleach and water loses its strength quickly, it should be mixed fresh before each clean-up to make sure it is effective.

Recipe for Bleach Disinfecting Solution:

- 9 parts cool water
- 1 part household bleach

Add the household bleach to the water and gently mix the solution.

**Commercial disinfectant** recommendations can be found on the EPA website and are effective when used according to the manufacturer's instructions:

<http://www.epa.gov/oppad001/chemregindex.htm>.

### Clean-up Procedure Using Bleach Solution:

1. Block off the area of the spill until clean-up and disinfection is complete.
2. Put on disposable gloves to prevent contamination of hands.
3. Wipe up the spill using paper towels or absorbent material and place in a plastic garbage bag.
4. Gently pour bleach solution onto all contaminated areas of the surface.
5. Let the bleach solution remain on the contaminated area for 20 minutes.
6. Wipe up the remaining bleach solution.
7. All non-disposable cleaning materials used such as mops and scrub brushes should be disinfected by saturating with bleach solution and air dried.
8. Remove gloves and place in plastic garbage bag with all soiled cleaning materials.
9. Double-bag and securely tie-up plastic garbage bags and discard.
10. Thoroughly wash hands with soap and water.

**For more Information:** Call the Delaware Division of Public Health: 888-295-5156.