

# Biohazard Small Spill Response

## Basic workflow for disinfection & cleanup

- Room evacuation is **NOT** required for BSL-1 spills.
- If a **BSL-2 spill occurs outside of containment**, evacuate the room immediately and allow aerosols to settle for at least 10 minutes (preferably a half hour) before initiating cleanup.
- If **BSL-2 spill occurs inside of containment**, do not open the containment for at least 10 minutes (preferably ½ hour) to allow the aerosols to settle.
- If **BSL-2 spill occurs inside a properly operating biosafety cabinet**, spill cleanup can proceed immediately.

**DO NOT** attempt to clean up a biohazard spill unless you have been trained and feel comfortable doing so.



Use appropriate personal protective equipment before cleaning up a biohazard spill such as gloves, eye and/or face protection, and shoe covers.



Avoid splashing to minimize the generation of aerosol droplets and cover the spill area with disinfectant-soaked paper towels.



Decontaminate **ALL** objects in the spill area, including broken glass and other solid materials.



Leave disinfectant on the spill for the minimum contact time.  
30 seconds for 70% ethanol  
20 minutes for 10% bleach



Use forceps, tongs, broom, cardboard, or mechanical device to clean up broken glass or sharps involved in biohazard spills.



**FOR LARGE SPILLS**, a second round of disinfectant for full contact time may be required.

After disinfection, wipe down the decontaminated surfaces with soapy water to remove disinfectant residue.

## Final steps for disinfected materials

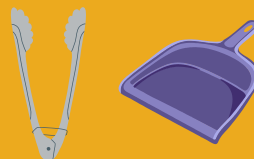
Place disinfected broken glass and other sharps inside a sharps container.



Place disinfected solid wastes, paper towels, and other spill cleanup materials in a red biohazard waste container.



Tools may be cleaned with disinfectant and reused as needed.



Remove personal protective equipment and dispose in red biohazard container. Wash hands with soap and water.



Once the cleanup is complete, inform your principal investigator/instructor.

Principal investigator/instructor **MUST** promptly inform safety staff and biosafety@sjsu.edu

### Need Help?

- Ask the principal investigator or instructor
- Ask the department/college safety staff
- Ask SJSU Environmental Health & Safety
  - Biosafety Officer: biosafety@sjsu.edu; 408-924-1978
  - Director: ehs@sjsu.edu; 408-924-1969

