



# Decontamination Procedures for Vomit, Diarrhea, and Other Bodily Fluids

Keep the following equipment on hand and follow the procedures below to dispose of vomit, feces, and other bodily fluids and to clean and disinfect the contaminated surfaces.

## PERSONAL PROTECTIVE EQUIPMENT (PPE)

- Disposable latex/vinyl gloves, gowns/aprons and shoe covers
- Eye protection/face shield
- Surgical face masks (not cloth face coverings)

## SUPPLIES

- Paper towels
- Plastic garbage bags
- Absorbent powder (kitty litter or other absorbent material) for carpets and upholstery
- Many mops and mop buckets and associated equipment
- Approved, labeled [EPA-Registered Disinfectant for Norovirus](#) and appropriate test strips

## PREPARING THE DISINFECTANT SOLUTION USING BLEACH (5-6%)\*

**CAUTION: The high concentration of chlorine bleach in disinfectant solutions is toxic and can be harmful to eyes, skin, and airways. Use chlorine bleach in a well-ventilated area and wear PPE. Follow the Safety Data Sheet (SDS) for chlorine bleach.**

Purpose	PPM	Dilution	Contact Time	Final Step
Disinfection	3500	1 cup bleach/1 gallon water	5 minutes	Rinse
Food-contact surface disinfection	3500	1 cup bleach/1 gallon water	5 minutes	Rinse thoroughly, sanitize after disinfection
Food-contact surface sanitization	50-100	1 tbsp bleach/1 gallon water	10 seconds	Air Dry

\*For concentrated bleach (8.25%) chlorine bleach, use 3/4 cup bleach/1 gallon water for disinfection; 2 tsp/gallon water for sanitization.

- Wash with hot soapy water and rinse before disinfecting.
- Do not use expired, scented, or splashless bleach.
- Prepare a fresh chlorine bleach solution every day of use and place in pour or pump bottles in a well-ventilated area away from sunlight to avoid decomposition.
- Use a new unopened bottle of bleach every 30 days for preparing disinfectant solutions.
- For carpeting and upholstery, use another disinfectant approved for Norovirus, if possible, followed by steam cleaning (158°F for five minutes; 212 °F for one minute). Chlorine bleach may permanently stain some surfaces.

**\* Ensure any other disinfectants you use are [EPA-Registered Disinfectants for Norovirus](#) and follow the manufacturer's instructions for decontamination.**

## CLEANUP

### Removing the Spill

- Put on all PPE **before** beginning the decontamination process.
- Post closure signs and secure area within a 25-foot radius of the vomit/diarrhea with barriers or cones or close the room to prevent access.
- Clean up vomit or diarrhea right away.
  - Use paper towels to remove vomit and diarrhea from hard surfaces.
  - Apply absorbent powder on carpets and upholstery. Do not vacuum. Allow fluid to be completely absorbed.
- Place waste inside two sturdy trash bags that have been doubled up and tie securely.
- Dispose of bagged waste directly into a designated medical waste container or into an outside dumpster.

***Always close the entire restroom or shower area during a contamination event.***

### Cleaning and Disinfecting the Area

- Wash surfaces that contacted vomit or diarrhea with soapy water using a mop or disposable rags.
- Rinse thoroughly with plain water.
- Wipe dry with paper towels.
- Flood floor with disinfectant and mop with a different, clean mop.
- Spray/wipe disinfectant onto surfaces and objects (hand rails, hand faucets, door handles, etc.) in the entire affected area.
- Allow floor, surfaces, and objects to air dry.
- Re-open the affected area when floors and objects are dry.

### Cleaning the Equipment

- Remove both mops from the affected site to a designated equipment cleaning area.
- Clean and disinfect mops and mop bucket.

## Final Steps

- Remove and discard the PPE in a medical waste container or in a heavy trash bag in an outside dumpster.
- Wash hands twice with soap and warm water.**
- Restock PPE and spill kit.

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