



IMMEDIATE RESPONSE

SPILLS – Inside a Biosafety Cabinet (BSC)

A spill confined to the interior of a biological safety cabinet generally presents little or no hazard to personnel in the area. However, chemical disinfection procedures should be initiated immediately.

1. Leave the BSC on and, before starting the cleanup, wait at least five minutes to allow any aerosols to be purged by the air flow of the cabinet.
2. While wearing PPE (gloves and lab coat), cover spill with paper towel or other absorbent material and carefully pour an appropriate disinfectant around and on the spill. Paper towels soaked with the decontaminant may also be used to cover the spill. **Do not place your head inside the BSC! Keep your face behind the sash!**
3. Wipe down the interior of the cabinet and any splatter on items within the cabinet with a disinfectant-soaked towel.

If the BSC has a drain pan beneath the work surface, and the spill resulted in liquids flowing into this area, more extensive decontamination is necessary.



4. Allow contact time for the disinfectant to work. Manufacturer's directions should be followed.
5. Discard all cleanup materials into a biohazard waste container.
6. Allow the cabinet to run for at least 10 minutes following cleanup prior to using it again.





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SPILLS – Inside a Biosafety Cabinet

Cleaning a BSC Drain Pan

1. All items within the cabinet should be surface decontaminated and removed.
2. Ensure the drain valve under the cabinet is closed.
3. Pour disinfectant onto through the front and rear grilles into the drain pan.
4. Allow contact time.
5. **Prepare to empty drain pan.** Place disinfectant solution in a collection vessel. Attach flexible tubing to the drain valve. The tube should be of sufficient length to allow the open end to be submerged in the collection vessel to minimize generation of aerosol.
6. Open the drain valve & empty the drain pan into the collection vessel containing disinfectant. Flush the drain pan with water and remove the flexible tubing.



ADDITIONAL MATERIALS: VIDEOS

Esco Life Sciences - [Dealing with Spills](#)

EHS Iowa State University - [Cleaning Up a Spill \(Biosafety Cabinet\)](#)