

Binghamton University

Physical Facilities

Sewage Spill Response Procedures

1. Customer Service Center receives notification that a sanitary sewage spill has occurred.
 - a. CSC will notify Plumbing department and Custodial Services immediately.
2. Plumbing supervisor or shift supervisor should decide size.
3. Small Spill – A spill that is contained within one non-public room and does not compromise a porous wall (sheetrock). The following should be notified as appropriate:
 - a. Building Services Manager
 - b. Assistant Director of Operations
4. Large Spill -

15. All hard surfaces, such as linoleum, hardwood floors, concrete, wood moldings, wood, and metal furniture, etc. should be thoroughly cleaned with hot water and disinfectant or bleach. Let the surface air-dry.
16. Clean sinks, rinse basins, and/or other plumbing fixtures that have had sewage back-up, with disinfectant or bleach.
17. If internal to a building, increase air circulation to reduce odors and mold growth. Open all windows and doors. The use of fans and dehumidifiers should also be used to speed the drying process.
18. Following complete clean-up of the contaminated area, wash your hands thoroughly and launder clothes separately. Disinfect "clean -up" mops, brooms, shovels, tongs, brushes, etc. with disinfectant or bleach.
19. If the spill came in contact with a porous wall (sheetrock), refer to the recommended procedure for a porous wall.
20. Please Note: If the potential exists that the repairs & clean-up cannot be completed in a timely fashion, the Incident Management Team will need to be activated in order to relocate and/or re-schedule staff and activities.

Good Hygiene

Do not touch sewage with bare hands. If you need to remove it, wear waterproof gloves and use an instrument such as tongs or a spade for picking it up.

Do not smoke, eat, drink, apply lip treatments, or chew gum while cleaning up sewage.

Reduce exposure by keeping those who are not properly protected from coming in contact with the material.

Clean everything, including clothes, tools, and footwear, that came in contact with the sewage. Use Fullsan or Bleach to wash down contaminated surfaces and "clean -up" equipment.

Wash your hands thoroughly even if you were wearing gloves the whole time. Use plenty of soap, scrub for at least 30 seconds, and rinse thoroughly with warm water. The New York Department of Health states: "frequent, routine hand washing is the most important safeguard in preventing infection by agents present in sewage."

Exposure and First Aid

If you believe that sewage has come into direct contact with your eyes, mouth, ears, nose, or a cut, abrasion, puncture, etc. You should immediately, and thoroughly, wash the exposed area with copious amounts of soap and water. Report the incident to your supervisor for further evaluation.

Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) & Clean-up Equipment

- Neoprene gloves
- Face Shield
- Long Pants or Tyvek Suits
- Buckets & Mops
- Wet/Dry Vacuum
- Fullsan or Bleach
- Protective Boots
- Tongs
- Sprayer(s)
- Fans/blowers (as necessary)
- Shovels

Porous Wall

If a sewage spill has compromised a porous wall (sheetrock or other porous wall material), follow the following procedure:

- & R Q W D F W D V E H V W R V F R R U G L Q E H W R W R M R U Q G Z H D W C H J P L Q D W
- Test wall with moisture meter.
- Remove wall material 4" above wet line. Bag contaminated material and dispose of properly.
- Clean and disinfect as necessary.
- Allow wall area to air dry with the use of air movers and dehumidifiers.
- When dry as tested with moisture meter, repair wall.

Management Considerations

1. Isolate the area from the general public using barrier tape.
2. Determine need for more employees and resources
3. Determine source/cause of sewer backup
4. Determine exposure level of the area around the sewer backup and to the campus storm water system.
5. Protect storm drain inlets by using drain mats
6. Develop a mitigation plan for removing any potential contamination in the general area of the sewer backup and for decontaminating the campus storm water system.
7. Implement mitigation plan