



Universal Precautions for Housekeepers

Universal precautions are guidelines to prevent exposure to diseases which may be spread by blood or other contaminated body fluids. It is a worker's responsibility to treat every body fluid as potentially infectious. Everyone should practice universal precautions, but it is especially important for housekeepers. These tips will help prevent exposures to potentially contaminated body fluids:

- Housekeepers must wear gloves to clean up blood or other body fluids.
- Dispose of gloves, soiled tissues, gauze, etc. in a separate bag after a single use.
- After disposing gloves, wash hands with soap and warm water for at least 20 seconds.
- Needles, syringes, and sharps must be stored and disposed of in a puncture-proof container.
- Use a broom and dustpan to clean up broken glass and other sharp objects.

- Never reach directly into a trash can, as it may contain sharps or other infectious material.
- Do not compact trash by hand.
- Make sure any cuts or sores are bandaged before working.
- Bag contaminated linens at the source.
- Remove and separately wash any contaminated clothing.
- Wash contaminated linens separately from regular laundry.
- Any potential injuries must be reported at once.
- Make sure that your eye wash/deluge shower meets all applicable regulations and ANSI standards.

The advice presented in this document is intended as general information for employers.

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