

Recommendations for Decontamination and Cleanup of Rescue Vehicles

Clean -Up Kit

Household utility gloves

Plastic spray bottle with cleaning agent

Plastic spray bottle with disinfectant solution or bottle with concentrated household bleach diluted with water (1:100 solution approximately ¼ cup bleach per gallon of water)

Disposable toweling

Plastic bags (biohazard red bags, household garbage bags)

Basket carrier to hold cleaning supplies

Clean-Up Procedure for After Each Call

1. Prepare vehicle for cleaning/decontamination
 - a) Always wear utility gloves throughout clean-up procedures.
 - b) Remove used or soiled linen and place in designated bag for laundering. Either leave laundry at hospital or process in the EMS laundry using warm water, detergent and bleach as recommended on the product labels.
 - c) Discard any soiled dressings, bloody materials, and other contaminated non-sharps waste in a red biohazard bag and leave at hospital.
 - d) Place reusable equipment that needs processing in a plastic bag (any color other than red).
 - e) Check the vehicle for needles or other sharps that may have been left, and carefully dispose of them in a sharps container
2. Check for areas soiled with blood or other body substances and clean.
 - a) Clean moist blood and other body substances with disposable toweling and discard in red bag.
 - b) Spray cleaner on affected area and remove any remaining blood or body substance. Dispose of toweling in red bag.
 - c) Spray disinfectant on affected area, wipe over area and allow to air dry. Dispose of toweling in red bag.
3. Spray cleaner on remaining surfaces that the patient came in contact with and surfaces used in providing patient care. Wipe the surfaces with toweling and allow to air dry. Dispose of toweling in normal garbage.

Periodic Cleaning of Rescue Vehicles

On a regular basis (e.g. weekly, monthly), as determined by the frequency of vehicle use and obvious need, the floors, walls, interior and exterior of cabinets and drawers, benches, and other surfaces, should be thoroughly cleaned. The same cleaning agent used after each call can be used for this more extensive cleaning. A supply kit should be kept in a central location for this purpose (e.g. bucket, reusable cleaning towels that are laundered after each use and a supply of cleaning agents). Wipe thoroughly and allow to air dry.

Carpeting and permeable seat covers in the patient compartment of ambulances are more difficult to clean than non-permeable surfaces. Their use is not recommended. Bleach solution should be mixed daily or at the time of use.