

How to Clean Up a Chemotherapy Drug Spill at Home

When a drug spill occurs at home, precautions must be taken to make sure that other people who may be helping you with the cleanup do not come in contact with your cancer treatment. Although the risk is very low, it is important to be careful.

Family, friends or caregivers who are pregnant, breastfeeding, or trying to get pregnant should not help with clean up.

All supplies to clean up a chemo drug spill safely will be provided to you by your cancer care team.

Step by Step Instructions

1. Put on personal protective equipment (PPE) in the following order:
 - One pair of gloves
 - Gown
 - Mask with Visor
 - Shoe covers
 - Second pair of gloves
2. Carefully place an absorbent pad over the spilled liquid (absorb as much liquid as possible into the pad).
3. Gather up the used pads and put into the waste container or bag that was provided in the spill kit.
4. Repeat steps 2 and 3 until the entire spill has been cleared.
5. Use a mild detergent (laundry soap or dish liquid) and water to clean the area thoroughly.
6. Rinse the area well with clean water.
7. Discard all used items including cleaning supplies into the waste container or bag that was provided in the spill kit.
8. Remove PPE in the following order:
 - Top pair of gloves (keep inner or second pair of gloves on)
 - Gown
 - Mask with Visor
 - Shoe covers

9. With one pair of gloves still on, place all PPE in the waste container or bag that was provided in the spill kit.
10. Remove inner or second pair of gloves and place in the waste container or bag that was provided in the spill kit.
11. Wash hands and any other skin that may have come in contact with the drug thoroughly with soap and water.
12. If any clothing has come into contact with the drug, wash separately from other laundry.
13. Call your cancer care team to notify them that a spill has occurred as soon as possible during business hours.
14. Double bag the waste, tie it shut and store in a safe place (e.g. out of reach of pets/children).
15. Dispose with regular household waste.

If you have questions about cleaning spills, call your cancer care team:

*Nova Scotia Health promotes a smoke-free, vape-free, and scent-free environment.
Please do not use perfumed products. Thank you!*

Nova Scotia Health
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The information is not intended to be and does not constitute health care or medical advice.
If you have any questions, please ask your health care provider. The information in this pamphlet is to be updated every 3 years or as needed.