

Standard Procedures for Cleaning Up Domestic Wastewater Spills Inside Buildings

Please note: Access to the spill area must be restricted until 24 hours after cleanup is completed.

If sewage is on nonabsorbent floor material like tile, vinyl, concrete or other nonabsorbent surfaces, cleanup of the visible water and semi-solid material should be accomplished using a vacuum or mop and by using the proper concentrations of sanitizers to disinfect. Make sure that the sanitizer is of proper concentration and that all affected areas are thoroughly sanitized.

If the sewage is on an absorbent floor material, such as carpet, the material that has absorbed the sewage should be vacuumed with an appropriate wet vacuum to remove as much of the waste as possible. Do not mix cleaning / disinfecting products or chemicals. Cleaning products can react with one another to produce toxic vapor or liquid substances.

The following is a list of common sanitizers:

Chlorine: For chlorine solutions, the chlorine concentration should be in the range of 50 to 1000 parts per million (ppm) or (mg/l) for disinfecting surfaces of appliances and food preparation areas and 200 ppm (mg/l) for walls and floors. You can verify the chlorine concentration by using test paper available at food supply warehouses or chemical supply companies. As a rule of thumb, add 3/4 cup Clorox Bleach to one (1) gallon of water. **ONLY USE BLEACH THAT HAS "SANITIZES" OR "KILLS GERMS" ON THE LABEL.**

Alternative disinfectants: Other disinfectants, which include iodine and quaternary solutions, must be used according to the manufacturer's specifications / recommendations if used for disinfecting sewage spills.

Please note: Using chlorine or alternate disinfectants on absorbent materials (such as carpet) may cause damage to the material and loss of color may occur. Because it is difficult to adequately sanitize carpet, carpet pad and absorbent flooring materials, DEC recommends that saturated flooring materials be removed and disposed of at a permitted solid waste disposal facility.

Contact Information

If you are experiencing on-going failed wastewater system issues, please contact your local Wastewater office through the Vermont Department of Environmental Conservation, Division of Drinking Water & Groundwater Protection at the link or phone numbers listed:

<http://www.anr.state.vt.us/dec/dwgwp/poregionaloffices.htm>

Barre	802-476-0190	5 Perry St., Suite 80, Barre, VT 05641-4268
Essex	802-879-5656	111 West Street, Essex Jct, VT 05452
Rutland	802-786-5900	450 Asa Bloomer Bldg., Rutland, VT 05701-5903
Springfield	802-885-8855	100 Mineral St., Suite 303, Springfield, VT 05156-3168
St. Johnsbury	802-751-0130	1229 Portland St., Suite 201, St. Johnsbury, VT 05819-2099