

## OSHA Spill Kits

As we all know, bloodborne pathogens such as HIV and Hepatitis C pose significant health risks to municipal facilities. To mitigate these risks, the Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) recommends using blood spill kits for proper cleanup and disposal of potentially infectious materials.

All employers, including municipalities, must comply with OSHA's Bloodborne Pathogens Standard (29 CFR 1910.1030), which outlines the necessary precautions and requirements for handling blood spills. Maintaining well-stocked and accessible blood spill kits provides key support for compliance.

So, what is a Blood Spill Kit? An OSHA blood spill kit is a collection of supplies designed to clean up and dispose of blood spills and other potentially infectious materials. These kits help ensure compliance with OSHA standards and provide essential tools for maintaining a safe working environment, keeping employees safe from infection. The necessary components in a spill kit are:

- Personal Protective Equipment (PPE):
  - Disposable gloves (nitrile or latex) to prevent contact with blood.
  - Goggles or face shields to protect the eyes and face from splashes.
- Absorbent Materials:
  - Pads/Granules to soak up blood spills effectively and prevent spreading.
- Disinfectants:
  - EPA-approved disinfectants to effectively clean surfaces post-spill.
- Biohazard Disposal Bags:
  - Marked bags for safe disposal of contaminated materials. Usually, they are orange or red in color with a biohazard icon.
- Cleaning Tools:
  - Paper towels, scrubbers, and other tools for cleanup.

Using blood spill kits is essential in preventing infections and ensuring employee safety. Proper training on kit use, timely replenishment of kit supplies, and a proactive approach to workplace safety enhance preparedness and response time during incidents. By equipping employees with the right tools and knowledge, your municipality can create a safer environment for everyone.