

Procedure

This guide is applicable to all Orange Sky personnel and describes the safe work methods to be followed when cleaning body fluids/substances – sputum, vomit, faeces, urine, blood etc from a washing machine or dryer, either before or after a load has gone through a wash or dry cycle. It covers the key points personnel need to follow to help reduce the exposure to biohazards to an acceptable level.

Hazards and Risks

- Body fluids are a source of infectious micro-organisms (bacteria, viruses and fungi).
- The main risk is infection following hand-to-mouth/nose/eye contact, as well as contact with aerosols generated by way of splashing, spraying or splattering of body fluids/substances.
- There is also a risk of infection via broken skin (cuts or scratches).
- Health effects from cleaning products may result in skin irritation and/or dermatitis and respiratory irritation.
- When using bleach solutions, always follow the manufacturer's instructions on the bottle.

Instructions

Washing Machine

- 1. Use Biohazard spill kit located in the van and face mask, safety glasses and gloves.**
- Using *Domestos Citrus Fresh Disinfectant* (thick) or something similar, apply to the inside of the washing drum and let sit for 10 minutes.
- Using a hot damp rag, wipe out the entire interior of the drum, including the fins (agitator paddles) that are moulded to the drum.
- Apply to the rubber seal around the door – the inside and outside portion – and again let the solution sit for 10 minutes.
- Move on to the door of the washer and spray the inside with your *disinfectant*. There may be a grimy substance on the door, so be thorough.
- Close the door and spray every available surface of the outer part of the machine and wipe down with a soft damp warm cloth.
- Lastly, ideally using hot water with $\frac{1}{4}$ - $\frac{1}{2}$ cup bleach in the dispenser run a hot wash. Most front loaders adjust the amount of water based on how full the drum is, so you may need to throw in a bunch of towels.

Dryer

- 1. Use Biohazard spill kit located in the van and face mask, safety glasses and gloves.**
- Using a bleach solution, such as *Domestos Citrus Fresh Disinfectant*, heavily spray the inside of the drum and let the solution sit for 10 minutes.
- Wipe out the entire interior of the dryer with bleach on a damp warm rag.
- Check any and all vents to be sure all substances have been removed.
- Heavily spray the rubber seal around the door – the inside and outside portion – and again let the solution sit for 10 minutes.
- Close the door and spray every available surface of the outer part of the dryer and wipe down with a soft damp warm cloth.
- Lastly, place a hot wet towel in the dryer and put it through a cycle or two until the towel is dry. Hopefully, this will help create a level of heat that will aid in killing any residual germs.
- If you feel the dryer is still not clean enough after this treatment, please talk to your manager.

Throw all towels and rags away do not reuse.

This guide should be read in conjunction with the following resources available on the OS Portal:

- *Cleaning up Body Fluids/Substances*
- *SWP - Biohazard clean of washing machine/dryer/shower*