Body Fluid Spills and Regulated Waste Determination

PURELL™ Body Fluid Spill Kits

For Foodservice and Retail Establishments

The Guidelines

The guidelines for determining regulated waste are very specific and unambiguous. Despite clear guidelines, there is a great deal of confusion around this topic. It is widely (and incorrectly) held that all body fluid waste is regulated waste. As long as blood, vomit and feces waste are thoroughly solidified, they are not classified as regulated waste.

Regulated Waste vs. Solid Waste

Regulated waste is liquid or semi-liquid blood, blood-soaked items that would release blood if squeezed, pathological and microbiological waste (cultures and specimens), contaminated sharps and isolation waste. Solidified blood, vomit and feces waste collected from body fluid spills in foodservice environments would be considered solid or "black bag" waste, not regulated waste.

The Black Bag

Solid or "black bag" waste can be thrown away in regular trash or in outside dumpsters. This type of waste does not require special labeling or red bags and does not require the use of a waste management pick up or mail back service.

Incorrect Classification of Waste

Only a limited amount of body fluid waste is regulated waste and nearly all of this limited to hospital/healthcare facilities. When grocery & retail stores, restaurants and schools use red bio-hazard bags to dispose of body fluid spills, they are required to dispose of the red bags according to regulated waste disposal rules. Red bio-hazard bags cannot be placed in regular trash streams, labeling and disposal of regulated waste is expensive and a red bio-hazard bag placed in the regular trash could yield unwanted fines and penalties.

PURELL Body Fluid Spill Kits

PURELL Body Fluid Spill Kit provides enough non-leaching absorbent (60 grams) to thoroughly solidify two liters of body fluid. The included bottle of PSS kills Norovirus, Salmonella, Listeria, and E. coli and other foodborne pathogens in 30 seconds and is EPA registered as a disinfectant. Proper implementation of the PURELL Body Fluid Spill Kit will allow non-medical waste generators (such as grocery & retail stores, restaurants and schools) to clean up and dispose of body fluid spills in regular black trash bags as non-regulated waste.

Important Norovirus Facts:

- Leading cause of foodborne illness
- Spreads easily from contact with contaminated surfaces, food & water and infected people
- Can survive on hard surfaces for weeks
- Causes acute vomiting and diarrhea for up to 3 days
- Up to 21 million cases in the U.S. each year

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