

Thoroughly clean up indoor sewage spills as soon as possible to reduce the risk of sewage exposure.

ALABAMA
PUBLIC
HEALTH

Thorough cleaning helps protect people—especially small children—from harmful bacteria and viruses. Learn how.

Clean up tips



Begin clean up as soon as possible.



Keep children and pets out of the area until cleanup is complete.



Use regular, unscented household bleach with a sodium hypochlorite concentration between 5% and 9% (this is the most common concentration in the United States) and follow the clean-up instructions below.



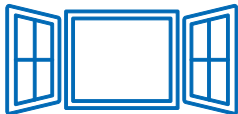
Wear rubber boots, rubber gloves, and goggles.



Never mix bleach with ammonia or any other cleaner.



Follow label instructions if using a disinfecting household cleaning chemical instead of a bleach solution.



Try not to breathe in product fumes. If using products indoors, open windows and doors to allow fresh air to enter.

Cleaning up specific items

Hard surfaces such as linoleum, hardwood and tile floors, concrete, wood molding, sinks, dishwashers, bathtubs:

1. Clean surface with soap and warm, clean water.
2. Rinse with clean water.
3. Sanitize using a mixture of 1 tablespoon (0.5 ounces or ~15 mL) of bleach to 1 gallon of water or other disinfectant according to label instructions.
4. Allow to air dry.

Saturated **wall-to-wall carpeting and carpet padding** usually cannot be adequately cleaned and disinfected. Remove these items, wrap them in plastic, and dispose of them properly at a sanitary landfill. If you decide to keep these items, hire a licensed carpet cleaning company to steam clean and disinfect them.

Professionally clean **upholstered furniture, loose rugs, and drapery**. Tell the cleaner they were exposed to sewage. Small throw rugs can be washed in detergent and hot water and air dried.

Drywall that has been saturated and is soft to the touch should be removed and replaced. If the surface is only damp, clean as you would a hard surface. Do not saturate the drywall.

After clean up

Wash your **hands** thoroughly with soap and clean, warm water.

Wash **clean-up clothes** separately.

Disinfect **clean-up mops, brooms, and brushes** with a bleach solution made by mixing one tablespoon of liquid household unscented bleach to one gallon of water.

Prevent **mold growth** and reduce odors by drying the area as quickly as possible and increasing air circulation. Open all windows and doors. Using fans or heaters may speed up the drying process.

alabamapublichealth.gov