

SOP: Disinfection and Decontamination Procedures for Waste Storage Areas

This SOP details the **disinfection and decontamination procedures for waste storage areas**, including the identification of contaminated zones, selection of appropriate disinfectants, preparation and application methods, personal protective equipment requirements, waste handling protocols, cleaning schedules, and verification of decontamination effectiveness. The goal is to minimize contamination risks, prevent the spread of pathogens, and maintain a safe and hygienic environment in waste storage facilities.

1. Scope

This procedure applies to all personnel involved in cleaning, disinfecting, and maintaining waste storage areas within the facility.

2. Responsibilities

- **Facility Manager:** Ensure SOP is followed and cleaning materials are available.
- **Cleaning Staff:** Perform disinfection and decontamination procedures as prescribed.
- **Supervisors:** Verify adherence and effectiveness of the procedures.

3. Identification of Contaminated Zones

- Visually inspect waste storage areas for visible contaminants or spills.
- Use signage and barriers to clearly demarcate contaminated areas.
- Restrict unauthorized access to contaminated zones during cleaning operations.

4. Selection of Appropriate Disinfectants

Surface/Area	Recommended Disinfectant	Concentration
Floors and walls	Sodium hypochlorite solution	0.5% (5000 ppm)
Equipment/surfaces (non-corrosive)	70% Isopropyl alcohol	Ready-to-use
General purpose	Quaternary Ammonium Compounds	Per manufacturer's instructions

- Ensure compatibility of disinfectant with surfaces to avoid damage.
- Prepare fresh disinfectant solutions daily.

5. Preparation and Application Methods

1. Don required PPE before handling disinfectants (see Section 6).
2. Remove gross contamination (e.g., spills, visible waste) prior to disinfection.
3. Prepare disinfectant solutions as per label or SOP guidelines.
4. Apply disinfectant to all relevant surfaces using:
 - Mop and bucket (for floors)
 - Spray bottle and clean cloth (for smaller surfaces)
 - Allow disinfectant to remain on surfaces for recommended contact time (generally 10 minutes unless specified).
5. Allow surfaces to air dry or follow with a clean water rinse if required.

6. Personal Protective Equipment (PPE)

- Gloves (nitrile, latex or suitable chemical-resistant type)
- Face mask or shield
- Protective goggles/safety glasses
- Chemical-resistant apron or gown

- Closed-toe, slip-resistant footwear

PPE must be donned before starting procedures and doffed/disposed of properly after completion.

7. Waste Handling Protocols

- Collect and segregate waste according to type (e.g., hazardous, non-hazardous, sharps).
- Dispose of cleaning materials and used PPE as per facility waste guidelines.
- Seal waste containers and label appropriately before removal from storage area.
- Wash hands thoroughly after handling waste and removing PPE.

8. Cleaning Schedules

Area	Frequency
Waste storage floor and walls	Daily
Waste bins and containers	After each emptying or weekly, whichever is sooner
High-touch surfaces (handles, switches)	Twice daily
General deep cleaning	Monthly or as needed after spills/contamination

9. Verification of Decontamination Effectiveness

- Visually inspect area for absence of debris, waste, and odor after cleaning.
- Document cleaning and disinfection activities in a log sheet for supervisor review.
- Periodically perform surface ATP swab tests or microbiological sampling (if appropriate).
- Address any deficiencies or unsuccessful disinfection actions immediately.

10. Documentation and Record Keeping

- Maintain cleaning schedules and checklists in accessible locations.
- Record any incidents, spills, or corrective actions taken.
- Keep all records for a minimum of 3 years or per facility policy.

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