

VCU Laboratory Equipment Decontamination Procedures

Any laboratory equipment contaminated or potentially contaminated with biological material, chemicals, or radioisotopes must be decontaminated prior to being cleared by EHS personal for moving. All equipment must be in a clean, sanitary condition before pickup, regardless if it was or was not used with radioactive, chemical, or biological agents. All instruments must be wiped down with soap (or any cleanser) and water. A visible examination should be made to check for evidence of spills. All instruments must be cleaned of all visible residue and encrusted material.

In addition, a potential hazard assessment must be made regarding the materials currently and previously used or stored in the instrument/equipment being dispositioned. Some potential hazards include but are not limited to: **Chemical, Radioactive** and **Infectious Biohazard**.

General Chemical Decontamination

Where there is the potential for HAZARDOUS CHEMICAL CONTAMINATION lab must initiate a material appropriate decontamination process. It is important that laboratory personnel properly decontaminate their laboratory equipment from hazardous chemicals (flammable, corrosive, reactive, toxic) prior to allowing VCU movers or moving contractors to transport the equipment to Surplus or another lab space.

1. Wash equipment with soapy water over areas where chemicals were spilled or stored.
2. Spray with water and towel dry.

Radioactive Decontamination

All equipment used with radioactive material **MUST** be officially decommissioned by EHS Radiation Safety staff prior to relocation, repair or disposal.

For items used in conjunction or in contact with RADIOACTIVE materials, insure that no radioactivity may be detected with survey equipment and/or incidental swipe tests.

Biological Decontamination

Where INFECTIOUS / BIOHAZARDOUS materials were used or suspected, disinfect all surfaces with material specific effective disinfectants. Some biological agents may require specific decontamination procedures and labs should contact EHS if they believe the following procedures to not be appropriate:

1. Spray down with a 10% solution of bleach.
2. Spray both the outside and inside of the equipment where contamination could have occurred.
3. Let equipment air dry overnight.
4. Some biological hazards (spore-forming bacteria, etc) may require a stronger bleach solution or a different type of disinfectant.

Under no circumstances will any laboratory equipment be allowed for service, storage or relocation without following the decontamination procedures outlined above. This includes the temporary storage of lab equipment in unsecured areas.