

Biohazard Decontamination: Work Surfaces and Reusable Materials

At SJSU, the **decontamination** of work surfaces and reusable materials includes:

- **disinfection**, which is the elimination of pathogens except bacterial spores
- **sterilization**, which is the destruction of all forms of microbial life

10% bleach (v/v in water)

20 minute contact time



- Prepare fresh solution **daily**.
- Keep track of bleach expiration dates and **replace stocks at least every 6 months** to avoid expiration.
 - Opened and unopened bleach stocks expire **within 1 year**.



70% alcohol (v/v in water)

30 second contact time



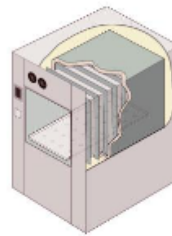
- Use isopropyl alcohol or ethanol.
- Prepare weekly **if the container is open** -- squirt or spray bottles.
- Closed bottles or carboys can be prepared **less often**.
- Ventilation in hoods and biosafety cabinets **compromises contact time**. Turn off airflow before decontamination.



EPA-Registered Disinfectants

- Prepare according to manufacturer instructions.
- Use the contact time recommended by the manufacturer. Approved disinfectants are registered by the EPA: <https://www.epa.gov/pesticide-registration/selected-epa-registered-disinfectants>
- Examples:
 - 3% DC Gold (v/v in water) for 10 minutes
 - Lysol disinfecting wipes for 4 minutes

Medical Waste Autoclave



- The Microbiology Service Center Autoclave is the **ONLY** system permitted by the county.
- Other SJSU autoclaves are **NOT** permitted for decontamination, but can be used for experimental preparations. Use chemical disinfectants (no bleach) to decontaminate before using lab autoclaves.
- Never autoclave anything that contains bleach or has been exposed to bleach.

Some equipment requires professional decontamination before it can be moved or disposed. Contact safety staff before moving **BSL2** containment, incubation, centrifugation, storage, or mixing equipment with HEPA filters. DO NOT move, dispose of, or accept donations of Biosafety Cabinets without safety staff help.



Need Help?

- Ask the lab/shop supervisor
- Ask the department/college safety staff
- Ask SJSU Environmental Health & Safety
 - Biosafety Officer: biosafety@sjsu.edu
 - Director: ehs@sjsu.edu; 408-924-1969