

Office of Laboratory Safety

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Disinfection and Cleaning Centrifuges

Disinfection and cleaning after spillage of hazardous and infectious substances	Yes
Inform your supervisor or lab manager about the incident.	
Wait for at least 10 minutes (even better: 30 minutes) before opening the centrifuge lid (sudden imbalance is a first sign of tube breakage).	
Wear a laboratory coat, gloves, and safety goggles.	
Remove rotor and bucket with aerosol-tight caps or lids from the centrifuge disinfect with 70% ethanol or isopropanol, and place under a biosafety cabinet.	
Remove debris or spills with paper towels.	
In case of glass breakage, remove bigger pieces with forceps first and then smaller and powder shards with a damp, lint-free cloth (make sure all glass pieces are removed from the rotor chamber carefully)	
Absorb blood or other potentially infectious bodily fluids with gauze or a paper towel and seal the material in a biohazard bag.	
Wipe all contaminated parts with disinfection agents (e.g., Sterillium [®] , Bacillol [®] plus, 70% ethanol, etc.) before cleaning it with mild cleaning agents.	
Open rotor/bucket under the biosafety cabinet and remove debris/fluids and discard the leaked sample material.	
Clean the rotor, buckets, caps, and adapters with suitable disinfecting and neutral cleaning agents.	
Autoclave the rotor (without the lid attached), rotor lid, buckets, caps, and adapters (usually at 121°C for 20 minutes at 2 bar; this is possible with most equipment; see operating manual of the centrifuge).	