

# Equipment Decontamination

## 1. Purpose

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To provide instruction on how to properly and safely decontaminate equipment.

## 2. Scope

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Applies to everybody working in CL2 Lab.

## 3. Prerequisites

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WHMIS and Laboratory Biosafety Training (EHS601).

## 4. Responsibilities

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It is the responsibility of the PI and lab personnel to ensure that equipment is properly decontaminated, and in the case of transport, properly prepared.

## 5. Personal Protection Equipment (PPE)

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Lab coat, nitrile gloves, safety goggles/glasses



## 6. Procedure:

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### 1) Before beginning decontamination:

- Equipment should be unplugged
- All materials should be removed and properly discarded or stored
- Refrigerators should be allowed to reach room temperature prior to decontamination and freezers must be defrosted
- All materials used to soak up thawed water should be collected and treated as biohazardous waste
- Incubators and other equipment with water temperature jackets must be drained if they are to be moved and the water drained from the jacket should be treated as biohazardous waste

- 2) In most cases, the following decontamination and contact times are appropriate:
  - *Tissue specimens, viruses (non-retroviral viruses) and non-spore forming bacteria*: 1% sodium hypochlorite for 30 minutes, or 70% ethanol for 20 min (read manual to choose compatible disinfectant)
  - *Spore forming bacteria*: 1% sodium hypochlorite (freshly prepared) for  $\geq 30$  min
  - *Fungi*: 1% sodium hypochlorite (freshly prepared) for 20 min
  - *Others*: Virox, Clidox, gaseous Formaldehyde or H<sub>2</sub>O<sub>2</sub> - discuss with the Biosafety Officer
- 3) Prepare a sufficient amount of decontaminant and transfer to a squeeze bottle (do not use spray bottle)



- 4) Squeeze covering all inner surfaces of the item with the decontaminant including door, handles, etc., and leave for the appropriate contact time
- 5) Wipe with absorbent material, collect and treat as biohazardous waste
- 6) Repeat steps 4 and 5 if the surfaces are particularly covered with dirt or “grime”
- 7) Following cleaning with 1% sodium hypochlorite, rinse well with water to prevent corrosion
- 8) Once the equipment is decontaminated, label with a “Decontaminated” sign that includes the date and the name of the person who was responsible for the decontamination process.