

Laboratory Decontamination

When hazardous chemical, biological, or radioactive materials are used in the laboratory, it is important that all surfaces and equipment are regularly cleaned and decontaminated. This will prevent cross-contamination and accidental exposures. It is the responsibility of the Principal Investigator (PI) or designee to determine proper decontamination procedures for any hazardous materials that may leave a residue or are classified as a particularly hazardous substance. Decontamination procedures should be used on surfaces and lab equipment (including fume hoods) on a routine basis and before the following activities occur: repairs by facilities management or contractors, relocating labs, closing out a lab space, disposal of unwanted equipment, and remodeling or demolition.

Chemical

- Laboratory personnel should be properly trained and wear the appropriate PPE to perform chemical decontamination.
- For laboratory surfaces and fume hoods, use paper towels with a compatible cleaning solution to remove any chemical residue.
- Paper towels and gloves used for decontamination should be disposed of as hazardous waste.
- Contaminated equipment or instrumentation should be decontaminated following the manufacturer's recommendations.
- All liquids must be removed from equipment, including fluid lines, before being taken by Surplus.



Biological

- Biohazards are any microbe that can cause disease in humans, animals, or other living things in the environment.
- Refer to the UNC Charlotte [Biosafety Manual](#) for disinfecting and decontamination procedures.

Radiation

- Only authorized and properly trained personnel should attempt radiation decontamination and must wear appropriate PPE.
- Begin decontamination from the edges working inward using a decontamination solution (or soap and water) with paper towels.
- Work in 12"x12" sections to decontaminate the area to avoid spreading the contamination.
- As you decontaminate, use an appropriate survey meter or swipes to verify the contamination has been sufficiently removed.
- All cleaning materials (paper towels, gloves, etc.) should be disposed of as radioactive waste.

