Aspiration trap with in-line filter

Collection of any biologically contaminated liquid waste must be performed using a properly assembled aspiration trap. Such a trap must have an in-line filter to protect the vacuum pump or the building vacuum system, depending on the type of system you use.

Proper aspiration trap setup should adhere to the following criteria:

1. An aspiration trap must have in-line filter (see picture for a proper design).

2. The collection flask must contain a 10% bleach solution or any other EPA registered disinfectant (follow the manufacturer’s instructions to determine the appropriate concentration).

3. If you are using bleach, the flask solution should be changed at least once a week to insure the effectiveness of the bleach. The best practice would be to apply a sticker to the collection bottle that would identify the date the solution was last changed (see picture below for an example).

4. The collection flask (preferably plastic) must be placed in a secondary container such as tray to insure that accidental spills are contained.

5. Once the waste reaches ⅓ of the volume of the flask, it can be disposed of down the sink drain only after all potentially infectious material has had at least 30 minutes of contact time with the bleach solution (or the manufacturer’s recommended contact time for any other disinfectant).

- Note: If the disinfectant is different than the bleach solution, it may not be approved for sink disposal. You should contact ORS on your campus for disposal assistance.

- ORS will be giving away a limited number of in-line filters on a first come first served basis. E-mail Iwona Spath for more information at i-spath@northwestern.edu. Also, very soon in-line filters will available for purchase at VWR stock rooms.

Exposure to potentially infectious materials

Do you know what steps to take in the event of an exposure to potentially infectious material? Immediate response to an exposure can greatly reduce your chances of developing a serious infection. If you have been exposed to potentially infectious material, follow the steps below:

1. Begin first aid immediately.
   - Wash contaminated skin thoroughly for 10 min with a Providone iodine solution (generic Betadine®). If this is not available, use antibacterial soap and copious amounts of water.
   - Irrigate contaminated eyes and mucous membranes for 15 minutes with warm water.

2. Notify your supervisor, if he/she is available. Otherwise, do not delay and go to step three.

3. As soon as possible report to Occupational Health for a full evaluation and treatment, if necessary.
   - On the Evanston campus during business hours go to OMEGA, 1000 Central Street, Suite 800, Evanston, Illinois, or 2050 Pfingston Road, Suite 280, Glenview, Illinois, (847) 657-1700. After hours, go to Evanston Hospital and identify yourself as a Northwestern University OMEGA patient.
   - On the Chicago campus during business hours, go to Northwestern Memorial Corporate Health, 676 North St. Clair Street, 9th floor - Suite 900, Chicago, IL 60611, (312) 926-8282. After hours go to Northwestern Memorial Hospital and identify yourself as a Northwestern University NMH Corporate Health patient.

4. Within five days, complete and submit incident reports to both the Office for Research Safety (ORS) and the Office of Risk Management (RM). These forms can be found on the ORS and RM websites:
   - For the Office for Research Safety, see the ORS Incident and Accident Reporting page.
   - For Risk Management, see the Workers’ Compensation Forms page.