

	Environmental Health and Safety Manual	
	Policy Number: EH&S 1-11	
Title: <b>Vermin Droppings Clean Up</b>		
Effective Date: 10/93	Revision: 2/97	Number of Pages: 2

**PURPOSE:** To establish a mechanism for removing excessive vermin droppings in a safe and efficient manner.

**SCOPE:** University wide.

**DEFINITIONS:**

**Disinfectant:** A 1:10 mixture of household bleach and water, or other EPA approved tuberculocidal cleaner.

**HEPA:** High Efficiency Particulate Air

**Vermin:** An insect or small animal that is destructive, annoying, or harmful to health, such as rodents and birds. This policy excludes animals used in research in the Division of Laboratory Animal Resources (DLAR) and other research areas. These are covered under separate policies.

**PROCEDURES:**

**A. User Responsibility**

1. If it is noted by a worker that excessive vermin droppings are present within their work area, he/she should report the problem to:
  - a. His/her supervisor
  - b. Physical Plant  
East Campus: 4-2400  
West Campus: 2-6400  
Residential Operations: 2-9585
  - c. Environmental Health & Safety: 2-6410

**B. Physical Plant Responsibilities**

1. Notify the Department of Environmental Health & Safety and the affected Department Chair/designee of the estimated date, location, and duration for clean up.

2. The heating, ventilation, and air conditioning (HVAC) system must be shut off prior to clean up operations, if applicable.
3. Workers, wearing disposable protective clothing, eye protection, and respirators equipped with HEPA cartridges, shall seal any openings leading outside the work area with at least 6 mil polyethylene sheeting.

NOTE: In order for any individual to wear a respirator, he/she must have written physician's approval, attend a respiratory protection training session, and pass a respirator fit test. Training and fit testing are provided by the Department of Environmental Health and Safety.

4. The workers shall wet the droppings with a disinfectant solution. This wetting action will keep the dust level down and also kill organisms which may be in the droppings.
5. Once the area has been wetted, the droppings may be scraped using a flat edged shovel or scraper. Droppings must be placed in durable bags (at least 4 mil) and sealed.
6. Removed droppings can be disposed of as general refuse.
7. Once the droppings have been removed, the area should be vacuumed with a vacuum equipped with a HEPA filter.
8. The floors and walls should then be washed down with a disinfectant.
9. Workers must wash hands and other potentially exposed areas with soap and water when finished working.
10. Upon approval from the Department of Environmental Health and Safety, the ventilation system can be reactivated.

**C. Department of Environmental Health and Safety Responsibilities**

1. Perform post-clean up air or wipe sampling within the work area, as necessary.
2. Give clearance for use of work area after clean up.

**INQUIRIES/REQUESTS:** Environmental Health and Safety

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**RELATED FORMS:**

**RELATED DOCUMENTS:**

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