Human Waste Clean-Up

The purpose of this document is to provide guidance on how to safely remove human waste found on the ground and dispose of it. This document has been created with consultation from Manitoba Public Health, Prairie Mountain Health, The City of Brandon and online resources from the Centre for Disease Control and other bio-clean organizations.

Please note the process outlined below is to address the issue of cleaning up human defecation, not animal waste.

If there is human waste found on *private (residential or business) property* please use the following guidelines:

- If the human waste is on a hard surface it can be scraped or scooped up, cleaned and then disinfected (see below for further instructions).
- If the human waste is on grass or soil, scoop up what you can and clean the surface where the waste was using hot water and an environmentally friendly cleaning agent or disposable cleaning cloths. Do not use bleach on soil or grass. If you cannot get it all cleaned up we recommend fencing off the area to avoid cross contamination.

Just to note; Urine and Fecal matter are not considered *biomedical* waste therefore can be disposed of in your residential or municipal garbage.

Cleaning Instructions

What you will need:

- Personal Protective Equipment (PPE): Cleaning gloves, face mask, face shield or eye protection (optional)
- Disposable plastic bags
- Paper towel
- Something to scrape with that can be easily disinfected or disposed of. A folded paper plate can work effectively as a scoop.
- Dish soap or cleaning detergent

- Bleach or disinfecting wipes. Please note that bleach breaks down quickly so it should be mixed fresh before each time you need it.

1) Put on the appropriate PPE. Scrape up as much solid waste as you can. Work inward from the least soiled areas to the most soiled to prevent unnecessary spreading. Place waste and debris (ex: toilet paper) in a disposable bag (double bagging is preferred).
2) Use hot water, soap and paper towels or disposable cloths to clean the soiled area. Repeat until the area appears to be clean and ready for disinfection. Throw out paper towels/cloths, preferably in a double bagged garbage bag.
3) Follow the instructions for the disinfectant product you are using (ex: ensure you mix bleach with water) and check if the product needs to sit on the soiled area for a period of time to break down the infectious material. Throw away any materials or disinfectant wipes used to clean with into a disposable plastic bag.
4) After the recommended contact time, or a minimum of 1-2+ minutes, rinse the area thoroughly with water and let dry.

Basic Hygiene Practices Following Human Waste Clean Up

- Wash hands with soap and water immediately after handling human waste.
- Avoid touching face, mouth, eyes, nose, or open sores and cuts while handling human waste.
- Do not smoke or chew tobacco or gum while handling human waste.
- Keep open sores, cuts, and wounds covered with clean, dry bandages and use waterproof gloves.
- Gently flush eyes with safe water if human waste contacts eyes.
- Clean any contaminated clothing or footwear with 0.05% chlorine solution (1 part household bleach to 100 parts water).