

Disease prevention – PPE disposal

Fact sheet

Strategies should be used to reduce any risks when disposing of animal carcasses. Infection with a bacterial disease through broken skin (e.g. leptospirosis, melioidosis) or inhalation during procedures that generate dust or aerosols (e.g. Q fever) can be reduced through the appropriate use of personal protective equipment (PPE).

Carcasses should be handled as little as possible.

PPE should include

- gloves
- leather or rubber boots
- clothes that cover exposed skin e.g. long-sleeved shirts and trousers
- eye protection.

Wearing a P2 mask (particulate respirator) may be considered and assessed on a case-by-case basis.

Single-use PPE disposal

- Gloves, masks, overalls, and shoe protectors can be disposed in general waste as long as there is no free-flowing blood. This means blood which is flowing, dripping, oozing or able to be squeezed from, a sodden material. If items are contaminated with free-flowing blood they need to be disposed of in clinical waste bins.
- Single-use PPE should be disposed of in a plastic bag and into the general waste.

Reusable PPE

- Reusable PPE such as heavy-duty gloves and boots (individual use) should be cleaned with detergent and water after use and allowed to dry.
- You may then also wipe over the surfaces of the gloves and boots with a disinfectant solution and allow to dry.

Additional information

- Disease prevention - human health and animal carcass disposal - <https://www.publications.qld.gov.au/dataset/public-health-disaster-management-fact-sheets/resource/3d157922-7613-4e23-aa0d-690091b7d0dd>
- Workplace Health and Safety Queensland - Animal carcass disposal after floods - <https://www.worksafe.qld.gov.au/agriculture/articles/animal-carcass-disposal-after-floods>
- Returning to a disaster-affected house or building - https://www.health.qld.gov.au/__data/assets/pdf_file/0022/713425/dm-returning-home.pdf
- Contact your local doctor, hospital or health clinic
- Call 13 HEALTH (13 43 25 84) at any time
- Contact 13 QGOV (13 74 68) for your nearest public health unit.