



Laundering of Contaminated and Potentially Contaminated Clothing

All law enforcement uniforms should be treated as contaminated and universal precautions should be followed when cleaning. *Contaminated uniform and non-uniform items should be handled wearing gloves, bagged in a leak-proof plastic bag, red in color, or marked with the international biohazard symbol.*

Soiled uniform items may be decontaminated by laundering separately with hot water and detergent using a full load of water. *Handle the laundry as little as possible.* Wearing gloves provides further protection from potential contaminants. Clothing can also be dry-cleaned. The dry cleaning establishment should be properly notified of suspected contamination.

Boots and leather may be handled by individuals wearing protective gloves, and scrub-brushed with soap and hot water to remove contamination.

Employees should not wear personal protective equipment (i.e. gloves, face shields or mask and eye protection, mouthpieces, pocket masks, or other ventilation devices) outside of the work area (lunch or break rooms, home, or when using a public telephone). This type of equipment should never require cleaning in the home. The department will clean, launder, and dispose of personal protective equipment.

Should any area of the home become inadvertently contaminated with blood or other potentially infectious materials, promptly and thoroughly clean and disinfect the area with freshly diluted household bleach (one part bleach to ten parts water) or with some other disinfectant such as isopropyl alcohol (35% solution) or Lysol. (Plymouth Police Department Policy and Operating Procedure Manual, 2004).