

RECOMMENDATIONS FOR CLEANING URINE

Urine soaked flooring can cause a pungent odor that is difficult to remove. Residual urea protein that has been absorbed by the wood can be a source of an over-powering ammonia smell.

In most situations, flooring should be completely removed and discarded. When that is not a viable option, or the problem has started recently, the following steps may help neutralize the odor. It is recommended that these steps also be taken on sub-flooring to prevent a resurgence of the odor through a new floor.

1. Remove as much of the surface materials as possible and discard.
2. Cover the affected areas with a bacterial enzyme digester, saturating the floor, baseboards, and even the walls in the affected area. The bacterial enzyme digester must contain live and active bacteria to be effective. These live bacterial enzymes digest the proteins, eliminating the smell. Several brand name bacterial enzyme digesters include *Un-Duz-It*, *Roebic Laboratories-Septic Tank and Cesspool Cleaner*, *Roebic Laboratories-Garbage Disposer Cleaner*, and *Alphazyme Plus Bio-Active Odor Eliminator & Enzymatic Presoak*. Obtain Material Safety Data Sheets (MSDS) for any product used.
3. Cover the affected area in a durable plastic tarp to keep the area wet, allowing the digestive bacteria to thrive. Plastic should remain on for a minimum of 24 hours.
4. Seal the affected and treated areas with a heavy-duty floor sealer to reduce future odors. Commercial products that are available include *Bin*, *Biz*, *Kilz*, *Zep Stain-Resistant Floor Sealer*, or *Marble Restore*.
5. If the area has acoustic drop ceiling tiles, these will absorb the odors and should be replaced. They cannot be cleaned with any product.

There are products available for recent and minor pet accidents. These may be ineffective in dealing with substantial urine soaked surfaces. For more information, please contact the Manchester Health Department.