

Building Preparation

Washington DC Processing and Distribution Center Brentwood

This fact sheet is one in a series of fact sheets providing information on the anthrax decontamination activities at the Washington DC Processing and Distribution Center Brentwood.

How is the building being prepared for decontamination?

Work has been ongoing for several months to prepare the Brentwood Facility for decontamination by fumigation with chlorine dioxide. Mail has been packaged and removed for treatment. Rolling stock, mail bins, and trays have been removed from the building and decontaminated. Equipment in the area of the initial anthrax spore release has been cleaned and wiped down with a solution of chlorine bleach. Items that have been determined as trash have been decontaminated and removed for disposal.

What is being done to prepare the cafeteria and vending areas?

All food and drink items have been removed and packaged for disposal. Vending machines, refrigerators, and freezers have been emptied, cleaned, and their contents packaged for disposal. Cafeteria and vending areas have been wiped down with a solution of chlorine bleach. Cabinets, drawers, and other closed areas have been opened to permit the penetration of chlorine dioxide during fumigation.

What is being done to prepare the office areas?

All office area contents have been removed and packaged for treatment. Desk drawers, filing cabinets, storage containers, etc., have been opened for gas penetration. Doors to offices will be opened during fumigation, and fans will be used to ensure gas penetration to all areas.

What is being done to prepare the main mail processing area?

The main mail processing area is being treated the same as the office complex.



How is the building being sealed to prevent escape of chlorine dioxide?

The building has been sealed from the interior and exterior. On the inside of the building, visible cracks in the floors, walls, and ceilings have been sealed with foam sealant or caulking; all floor drains have been sealed; and windows on outside walls have been covered. On the outside of the building, all visible cracks in the walls have been sealed with foam sealant or caulking, and all skylights and penetrations in the roof have been covered, sealed, and insulated. The truck dock areas have been framed and covered with poly-sheeting. Roof leaks are being sealed.