



Decontamination Units



DECON

The worker/personal decontamination system (commonly called the "decon unit" or "Decon") is specially designed to allow passage to and from the work area during the abatement activities.

The worker decontamination unit must always be constructed and operational prior to the preparation of the work area



DECON

The materials used to construct a Decon unit vary from project to project. 2 x 4 wooden studs for the framework are commonly seen on abatement sites as well as aluminum, PVC piping, the walls of existing hallways, and many other variations



DECON

If the Decon enclosures will be accessible to the public, they shall be fully framed and hard-wall sheathed.

Once the framework is in place, plastic (polyethylene) sheeting is required to wrap the inside of the Decon. This plastic sheeting is commonly referred to as "Poly."



Worker Decontamination Unit

The Decon is to be wrapped with a minimum of two layers of 6-mil opaque poly. (NYCDEP)

At least two layers of 6-mil, fire-retardant reinforced poly shall be used for flooring protection (NYSDOL)

NYC requires that Decon's located outdoors be waterproof and windproof





Inside Building (Soft Shell)



PERSONNEL DECONTAMINATION UNIT

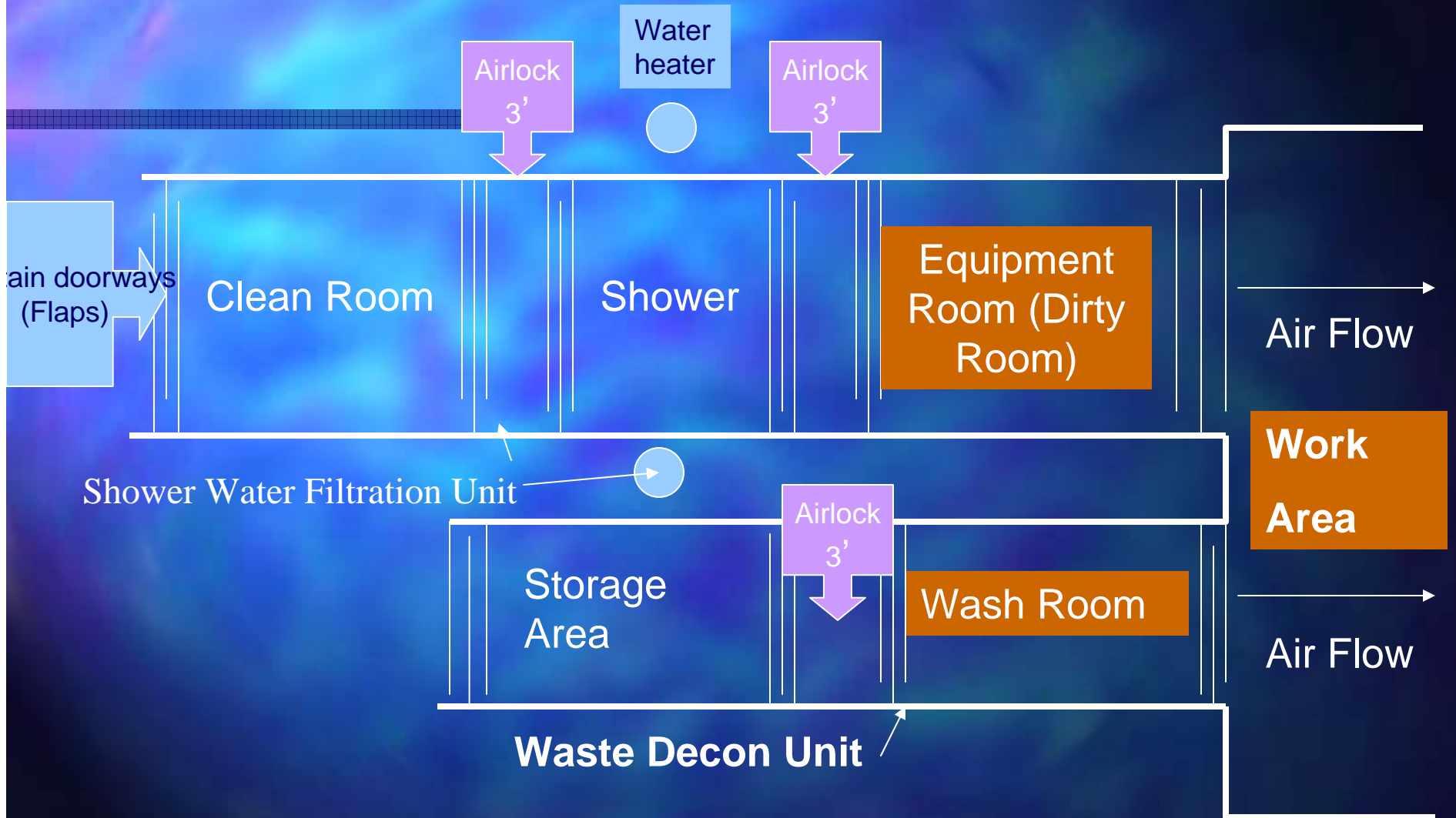


The typical worker Decon consists of three main rooms:

- Clean Room
- Shower
- Equipment room.

Each room is separated by curtain doorways and airlocks on each side of the shower room

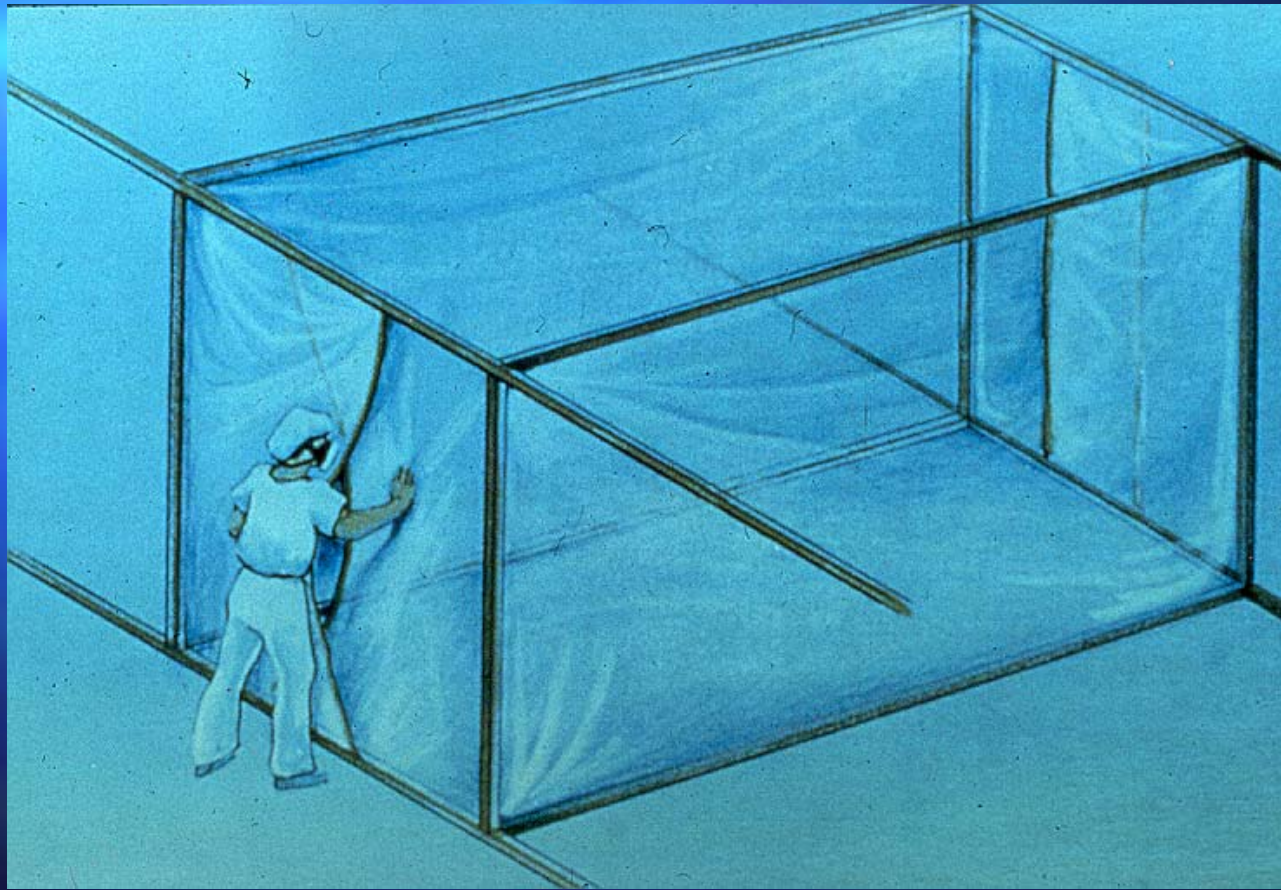
Decontamination Units - Plan View



Orange denotes contaminated area



Curtain Doorways





CLEAN ROOM

The clean room is the first room you encounter when entering the worker decontamination unit. No asbestos-contaminated items shall be found in this room. Workers use this area to remove street clothing and jewelry, and also to don (put on) protective clothing and respirators.



SHOWER ROOM

Workers pass through the shower room on their way into the work area. On the way out of the contaminated work area, the shower room becomes the most important room for decontamination. Once they have left the equipment room and all contaminated clothing behind, the worker enters the shower area with the respirator still on. It is here that the worker showers and the respirator are washed.



SHOWER ROOM

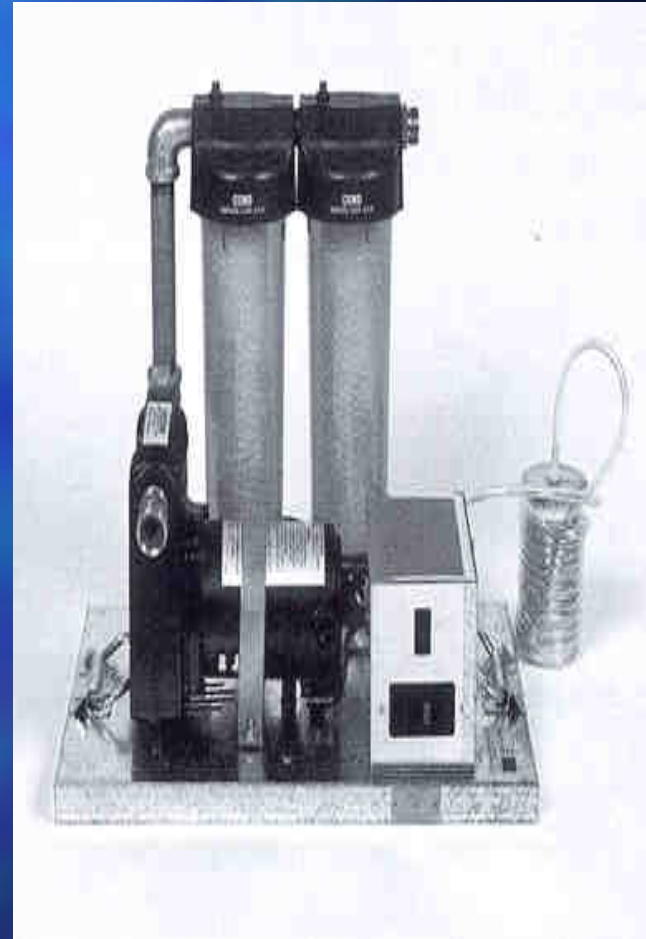
The shower room must have 1 shower per 6 workers (based on largest shift). Each showerhead shall be supplied with hot and cold water adjustable at the tap. The shower enclosure shall be constructed to ensure against leakage of any kind. Uncontaminated (liquid) soap, shampoo and towels shall be available at all times .





Shower

- ✓ All shower water must be filtered before disposal
- ✓ Filtered to a minimum of 5 microns







EQUIPMENT ROOM

This is a contaminated area where equipment, boots or shoes, hardhats, goggles, etc. are stored. Upon exiting the work area, this is where the worker removes the disposable suit and places it in a properly labeled 6-mil polyethylene disposal bag (NYC) or lined container (NYS).



Proper Entry Procedures

- Enter Clean Room and remove all street clothing and store all street clothing as per applicable requirements.
- Put on Personal Protective Equipment (PPE), including protective clothing, respirator, gloves, etc. Proceed to the Equipment Room and put on any applicable personal protective equipment, i.e. boots, hardhats, etc. Collect any necessary tools then proceed to work area.



Proper Exit Procedures

- Remove gross contamination from suit before leaving the work area. This can be accomplished by the use of a HEPA vacuum or wiping off the suit.
- Proceed to Equipment Room and remove all clothing and personal protective equipment except the respirator. Place disposable clothing in the labeled waste bag (NYC) or container (NYS).
- Store any other contaminated articles (tools) and proceed to the shower.

Proper Exit Procedures

- In the shower, with the respirator still on, wet the face piece and filters [keep in mind, that once the filters are wet they should be discarded since breathing will be difficult through wet filters]. Once thoroughly soaked, remove the respirator and wash it with soap and water. Next, fully and vigorously shower and shampoo to remove residual asbestos contamination. Proceed to Clean Room.
- Dry off and get dressed. Dry and store respirator.
- Sign-out in the entry/exit log.