

Purpose of Decontamination

1. To prevent cross-contamination of different sites using common equipment
2. Ensure representative samples are collected
3. Ensure proper operation of equipment
4. Reduce exposure hazards

Decontamination Site Selection

1. Controlled access
2. Store clean equipment to prevent recontamination
3. Control residual material removed from the equipment

table 15.4. potential sources of contamination associated with decontamination procedures.

- Use of "contaminated" potable water supplies - (i.e., contaminated due to the presence of bacteria, organic compounds, metals, or other objectionable substances)
- Use of contaminated supplies of commercially prepared distilled water (i.e., contaminated due to the presence of plasticizers and organic compounds)
- Contamination of samples with residues of fluids used for decontamination, such as dilute acids or solvents
- Oil spray from unfiltered exhaust from generators used as power sources
- Volatile organic contamination associated with equipment exhaust systems (steam cleaners, generators, support trucks, etc.)
- Use of ethylene glycol (antifreeze) in decontamination equipment (e.g., hot-water power wash spray nozzles and hoses) to prevent freezing in extremely cold weather
- Hydraulic fluids, oils, gasoline, or diesel fuel used to operate generators and other support equipment