



# CHEMICAL SPILL

All chemical laboratories must have access to chemical spill response materials. The following guide will be helpful in determining appropriate spill control agents.








Type of Spill	Neutralizing Agent/Clean up supplies
Acid	Sodium Bicarbonate
Bases	Citric Acid
Organic Solvents	Absorbent pads, charcoal if available
Mercury	Amalgam (mercury-absorbing) sponges
Metals e.g., sodium	Sand, Class D fire extinguishers
Other chemicals	Absorb with vermiculite, dry sand or diatomaceous earth

**Pre-packaged spill kits can be ordered through the Lab Safety Supply catalogue.**

Spills are either **manageable** or **unmanageable**. A manageable spill is one that will not spread rapidly, does not pose an immediate risk to health, and can be handled safely by lab personnel. All other chemical spills are considered unmanageable.









## MANAGEABLE CHEMICAL SPILLS

-  **Alert people** in the area and post a warning sign, if possible. Quickly and safely determine the identity and quantity of spilled material.
-  Consult the **material safety data sheet (MSDS)** for hazardous properties, incompatibilities, etc.
-  Wear appropriate **personal protective equipment** (safety glasses, gloves, lab coat).
-  **Confine the spill** to a small area. Create a dike with absorbent/neutralizer and then mix with spilled material (see above chart for spill cleanup). Ventilate area if necessary.
-  **Collect** absorbed, neutralized residue in container and label with hazardous waste sticker.
-  **Clean** spill area with soap and water.
-  **Notify** your Principal Investigator or Lab Supervisor, and contact EH&S for proper disposal of spill cleanup materials.



## UNMANAGEABLE CHEMICAL SPILLS

-  **DO NOT** attempt to cleanup unmanageable spills.
-  If the spilled material is flammable, turn off all ignition and heat sources if it can be done safely.
-  Alert people in the area and tell them to evacuate.
-  Close the doors to the affected area and post a warning sign.
-  Call EH&S at 305-6780 and Public Safety at x 5-7979 or 305-8100.
-  Have a person knowledgeable of the incident and laboratory available when EH&S arrives.

## MERCURY SPILLS



- Small spills (e.g. thermometer break) in ventilated areas do not pose a serious health risk, but they must be promptly cleaned up using dampened amalgam sponges. Put the used sponge in a plastic bag or glass container, seal and affix a hazardous waste label, store in a chemical fume hood, and call EH&RS for pickup.
- Larger spills must be reported to EH&S immediately for proper cleanup. Isolate the area of the spill.

Contact Public Safety at x 5-7979 or 305-8100 to report any after hour spills, who in return will page EH&S for instructions. Have a person knowledgeable of the incident available to provide any necessary information to emergency personnel.



### **CONTACT EH&S (305-6780) IF SPILL IS:**

- ★ Greater than you can handle
- ★ Very Toxic and/or Corrosive
- ★ Poses a fire hazard
- ★ If you need assistance