

Procedure for Cleaning Up a Chemical Spill

1. **Decide if it is a major spill or a minor spill.** (A minor chemical spill is one that does not affect a public area and that laboratory personnel are capable of handling safely without outside assistance. All other chemical spills are considered major.)
2. **For a Minor Mercury Spill:**
 - a) Alert people in the immediate area of the spill.
 - b) Wear protective clothing and equipment, including safety glasses, gloves, and a long-sleeved lab coat.
 - c) Open the mercury spill kit and follow the directions given in the kit. The mercury spill kit is located on the bookshelf just inside the door to 66-325.
 - d) Dispose of the mercury and all contaminated clean up materials properly.
3. **For a Minor Water Spill:**
 - a) Alert people in the immediate area of the spill.
 - b) Use kitty litter or paper towels to soak up the spill. Kitty litter is located on the bookshelf just inside the door to 66-325.
 - c) Dispose of the water soaked kitty litter or paper towels in the trash can.
4. **For a Minor Acid Spill:**
 - a) Alert people in the immediate area of the spill.
 - b) Wear protective clothing and equipment, including safety glasses, gloves, and a long-sleeved lab coat.
 - c) Avoid breathing vapors from the spill.
 - d) Confine the spill to a small area.
 - e) Liberally sprinkle baking soda on the spill to neutralize the acid. Baking soda is located on the bookshelf just inside the door to 66-325.
 - f) Collect the waste residue using paper towels, and dispose of the waste paper towels in the trash can.
 - g) Wash the spill area with water, and then dry it using paper towels. Dispose of these paper towels in the trash can.
5. **For any other Minor Liquid Chemical Spill (for example - bases, oils, and organics):**
 - a) Alert people in the immediate area of the spill.
 - b) Wear protective clothing and equipment, including safety glasses, gloves, and a long-sleeved lab coat.
 - c) Avoid breathing vapors from the spill.
 - d) Confine the spill to a small area.
 - e) Use spill pillows to soak up the spill, if it is a relatively large spill. Otherwise, just use paper towels. Spill pillows are located on the bookshelf just inside the door to 66-325.
 - f) Place all waste, the spill pillows (if used), and the paper towels in a plastic container, and seal it shut.
 - g) Label the waste container properly with a red Hazardous Waste tag, and dispose of it as hazardous chemical waste.
 - h) Wash the spill area with water or other appropriate cleaner, and then dry it using paper towels. Dispose of these paper towels in the trash can.
6. **For any Minor Solid Chemical Spill (for example – salts, powders, and polymers):**
 - a) Alert people in the immediate area of the spill.
 - b) Wear protective clothing and equipment, including safety glasses, gloves, and a long-sleeved lab coat.
 - c) Avoid breathing any dust from the spill.
 - d) Confine the spill to a small area.
 - e) Use wet or damp paper towels to wipe up the spilled solid, unless the solid chemical will react negatively with water. If it will react, sweep up the solid into dry paper towels as much as possible.
 - f) Place the spilled solid and the paper towels in a plastic container, and seal it shut.
 - g) Label the waste container properly with a red Hazardous Waste tag, and dispose of it as hazardous chemical waste.

- h) Wash the spill area with water or other appropriate cleaner, and then dry it using paper towels. Dispose of these paper towels in the trash can.

7. **For a Major Chemical Spill:**

- a) Attend to injured or contaminated persons and remove them from exposure.
- b) Alert people in the lab to evacuate.
- c) If the spilled material is flammable, turn off ignition and heat sources if it can be done safely.
- d) Report the spill emergency: (x3-1212) or (x100).
- e) Close all doors leading to the affected area.
- f) Have a person knowledgeable of both the incident and the laboratory itself standby to assist emergency personnel. If the chemicals are known, provide an MSDS for the emergency response members, if possible.