



HS305 Mercury Spills Procedure

[W](#)

[Policy](#) [Hierarchy link](#)

- f. Ventilate the room to the outdoors. Use fans to force air circulation for a minimum of one hour after clean up. In an office building, increase the air exchange rate for two days. The danger of mercury exposure is greatest in small, confined, poorly ventilated areas.

- o. Never pour liquid mercury or mercury compounds down the drain. Since mercury is heavier than water, it will accumulate in the S-trap of your drain and may continue to emit harmful vapors. It is also an environmental pollutant.

- p. Remove and dispose of contaminated articles that have directly contacted mercury. Double or triple wrap these remnants in plastic rubbish bags and contact HS UNIT for proper disposal. Special precautions should be taken if mercury was spilled in a high traffic area or a confined area.

- q. Sprinkle fine powder sulfur or zinc on the spill site to bind any remaining mercury. This may be supplied in mercury spill kits as mercury vapour absorbent or purchased separately from chemical suppliers. Apply over hard-to-reach areas such as cracks and crevices to minimise the release of mercury vapours. In instances where furniture has been exposed to mercury, wash fabric thoroughly and allow all items to air out completely. Mercury may lodge

- y. Produce an inventory of all remaining mercury-containing devices and replace them with mercury free alternatives.

5. Review & History

Version	Authorised by	Approval Date	Effective Date	Sections modified
1.0	Director Human Resources	1 March 2003	1 March 2003	