

Basic Chemical Spill Kit

A basic chemical spill kit should include (but not limited to):

- Copy of the Chemical Spill Clean Up Plan
- 2 Disposable Lab Coats
- 2 Safety Glasses or Goggles
- 2 pairs Shoe Covers (Booties)
- 2 pairs of nitrile gloves
- Absorbent material to contain the spill (spill booms or pillows, vermiculite)
- Forceps/tongs to pick up contaminated debris or broken glass.
- Small Bottle of Detergent Cleaning Solution
- Small Disposable Plastic Broom and Dustpan
- Zipper Seal Type Bags (1 Gallon Size)
- Hazardous waste sticker
- Biohazard sticker
- Waste disposal bags



This information is for a basic spill kit only and may work for your area. However, a careful risk analysis of the chemicals found in your area may require additional items not found on this list.

Store all these items in a five-gallon bucket with a lid. The bucket also serves as a container for waste generated by the cleanup. Label the bucket **Chemical Spill Kit**.

Handling Spills

Small Spills

1. Don the appropriate Personal Protective Equipment (PPE). Look on the label or Safety Data Sheet (SDS) for this information.
2. Locate your Chemical Spill Kit.
3. Use the materials provided in the spill kit to absorb liquid spills (i.e., spill pillows, vermiculite). Dispose of the absorbent materials as chemical waste.

Spill Kits and Clean-Up

4. Sweep powder form chemicals carefully into a dustpan. Avoid vigorous sweeping or other actions which generate respirable dust. Dispose contaminated materials as chemical waste.
5. Contact EH&S at 205-934-2487 if you need assistance

Large Spills (500ml or more)

1. Don appropriate PPE. Look on the label or the SDS for this information.
2. Contain the spill if safe to do so
3. If possible, warn others in the immediate area.
4. Restrict access to the area.
5. Evacuate the area.
6. Contact UAB Emergency at (205-934-3535). State your name, extension, location of the spill, and quantity and name of the spilled chemical.
7. Decontaminate personnel who may have been splashed with the chemical in deluge showers and flush eyes with eyewashes.
8. Get prompt medical attention for anyone injured.



Contact with chemicals requires immediate attention. An [Accident/Injury Form](#) should be completed, and a copy forwarded to UAB's Department of Environmental Health and Safety (EH&S).

Mercury Spills

Mercury is commonly used throughout the University in many technical and diagnostic procedures. When properly contained, it is of little threat to our health.

- Contact EH&S at 205-934-2487 if you encounter a mercury spill
- Broken thermometers that contain small amount of mercury may be safely collected in a container that can be sealed.
- Always wear PPE (disposable gloves, lab coats and safety goggles) when cleaning up mercury.
- Dispose of mercury and mercury contaminated waste through the chemical waste program.
- Anyone handling mercury or cleaning up mercury should wash their hands thoroughly with soap and water when finished.

Spill Kits and Clean-Up

Cleaning-Up

Mercury spill kits that include a sponge with a layer of granulated zinc on one side can be used to clean up small spills. The zinc fuses with the mercury as you clean.

- Don appropriate PPE.
- Gather all the droplets using a suction tube, syringe, or piece of paper.
- Get up as much mercury as possible.
- Store the spilled mercury in a labeled container.
- Put the sponge on the spilled mercury and/or the contaminated area – zinc side down.
- Move the sponge in clockwise circles from the outside working in toward the center.
- Follow the manufacturer's instructions for re-use and/or disposal of the zinc sponge.



Contact EH&S immediately at (205) 934-2487 for large mercury spills.