



**Bureau of
Environmental Health
Health Assessment Section**

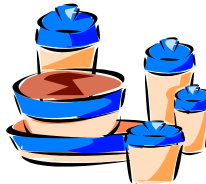
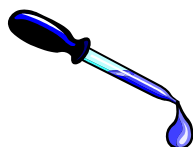
"To protect and improve the health of all Ohioans"

Mercury Cleanup Kit

What items should you have in your mercury cleanup kit?

IMPORTANT NOTES !! Pregnant women and children should be removed from a spill site and should never be included in cleanup activities. If a resident has already vacuumed the mercury spill, walked through the spill, or otherwise extended the spill beyond its initial spill location, disregard the small mercury spills fact sheet and the mercury cleanup kit document and contact the Ohio EPA's spill hotline at 1-800-282-9378. If a resident have properly contained the spill, complete the first five steps of the "Small Mercury Spills – What should you do?" fact sheet. There are mercury spill kits commercially available and convenient. But these kits can be expensive and are not absolutely necessary to clean up a small, contained mercury spill (such as a fever thermometer or mercury switch break). The following are some common household items that could be used to construct an in-home mercury cleanup kit for a small, contained spill:

- Rubber gloves
- Goggles
- Flashlight
- Rubber squeegee
- Tape (use wide duct, or masking)
- Stiff index card
- Eye dropper
- Syringe without needle
- Plastic containers with lids
- Wide mouth container
- Plastic bags with zipper seal
- Plastic sheeting
- Trash bags
- Tray or box
- Powdered sulfur *1
- Powdered zinc *2



Powdered sulfur and zinc can be found at garden supply stores or chemical supply houses. These powders do not prevent mercury vapors, but bind the mercury to the powders for cleanup.

*1- Sulfur powder turns from yellow to brown when it comes in contact with mercury.

*2- Zinc powder amalgamates (bonds with) mercury.

Note: Any item used during a mercury spill cleanup should be double-bagged and disposed of safely. If the spill was properly contained and cleaned, environmental air testing may not be necessary for spills as small as a broken fever thermometer. However, a person may wish to have their residence tested to ensure safe levels for re-occupancy.

Where can I get more information?

Ohio Department of Health
Health Assessment Section
246 N. High Street
Columbus, Ohio 43215
Phone: (614) 466-1390
E-mail: BEH@gw.odh.state.oh.us



Ohio Environmental Protection Agency
Ohio Mercury Reduction Group (OMRG)
122 S. Front Street
Columbus, Ohio 43215
614-644-3469
E-mail: www.epa.state.oh.us/



Bowling Green State University
Elemental Mercury Collection and
Reclamation Program
102 College Park Office Building
Bowling Green, Ohio 43403
(419) 372-2171



DISCLAIMER: The above in-home mercury cleanup kit was compiled by the Michigan Department of Environmental Quality (MDEQ). Its purpose is to provide information about potential sources of mercury remediation equipment. The quality and thoroughness of the clean-up service provided by each person is not known or implied by this listing.