What to Do If You Find or Spill Mercury

learn more

VISIT EPA'S WEBSITE FOR MORE MERCURY INFORMATION

epa.gov/mercury

find detailed guidance

WHAT TO DO IF YOU FIND MERCURY

SPILLS THAT ARE SMALLER THAN A DIME

SPILLS THAT ARE SMALLER THAN A PING-PONG BALL

important contact information

FOR LARGER SPILLS, CONTACT THE NATIONAL RESPONSE CENTER AT 1 (800) 424-8802

FIND A LOCAL HAZARDOUS WASTE PROGRAM

IF YOU HAVE QUESTIONS, CALL YOUR LOCAL POISON CONTROL CENTER AT 1 (800) 222-1222

EPA

How to Clean Small Mercury Spills

That Are Smaller Than a Dime



0.705 inches

Isolate & Ventilate

Get children and pets out of the room.

Close off the area from the rest of the building and open windows to the outside.

Prepare to Respond

Gather supplies like zip-top bags, stiff cardboard, paper towels, and a flashlight.

Wear disposable clothes and gloves that you can throw away.

Clean Up

Use stiff cardboard to push mercury beads onto a damp paper towel.

Use a flashlight close to the floor to search for additional shiny beads.

Contain

Seal contaminated items in zip-top bags and dispose of them per local waste authority rules.

Decontaminate

Dispose of any clothing or gloves used in the cleanup, ventilate the area, and wash skin with soap and water.

That Are Smaller Than a Ping-Pong Ball

Isolate & Ventilate

Contact your local health or fire department or local poison control center as soon as possible.

For larger spills, contact the National Response Center hotline.