



Chemical Spills

The following are general guidelines to be followed for a chemical spill.

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INTRODUCTION

In the event of a chemical spill, the individual(s) who caused the spill is responsible for prompt and proper clean-up. It is also their responsibility to have spill control and personal protective equipment appropriate for the chemicals being handled readily available.

RESPONSIBLE EMPLOYEES

All Employees

— Conduct the following for chemical spills in the building

- **Prevent the spread of dusts and vapors.** If the substance is volatile or can produce airborne dusts, close the room door and increase ventilation (through fume hoods, exhaust, etc.) to prevent the spread of dusts and vapors to other areas.
- **Control the spread of the liquid.** Contain the spill. Make a dike around the outside edges of the spill. Use absorbent materials such as vermiculite, cat litter, or spill pillows.
- **Absorb the liquid.** Add absorbents to the spill, working from the spill's outer edges toward the center.
- **Collect and contain the cleanup residues.** The absorbent should be scooped, swept, or otherwise placed into a plastic bucket or other container. For dry powders or liquids absorbed to dryness, double bag the residue using plastic bags.
- Additional packaging may be required before the wastes can be transported from the facility. For spills of powders or solid materials, we may need to add a dust suppressant. Be sure to place descriptive labels on each container.

- **Dispose of the wastes.** Keep cleanup materials separate from normal trash. Contact the Chief Operating Officer for guidance in packaging and labeling cleanup residues. Promptly place cleanup wastes in an appropriate hazardous waste receptacle.
- **Decontaminate the area and affected equipment.** Ventilating the spill area may be necessary. For most spills, conventional cleaning products, applied with a mop or sponge, will provide adequate decontamination.

— FOR HAZARDOUS SPILLS



- **Flammable Liquids** Remove all potential sources of ignition. Vapors are what actually burn, and they tend to accumulate near the ground.
 - Flammable liquids are best removed through the use of spill pillows or pads. Because flammable liquids will probably be incinerated, avoid using inert absorbents such as cat litter. All used absorbent materials should be placed in heavy-duty poly bags, which are then sealed, labeled, and properly dispose .
- ⚠ Before resuming work, make sure the spill area has been adequately ventilated to remove flammable vapors.

- **Volatile Toxic Compounds** Use appropriate absorbent material to control the extent of the spill. Spill pillows or similar absorbent material usually work best because they do not have the dust associated with cat litter, vermiculite, or corn cobs. Place all used absorbent materials in heavy-duty poly bags.
- Seal the bags, label them, and properly dispose. Again, make sure the spill area has been adequately ventilated before resuming work.
- **Direct Contact Hazards** Carefully select suitable personal protective equipment. Make sure all skin surfaces are covered and that the gloves you use protect against the hazards posed by the spilled chemical.
- ☑ Often it is a good idea to wear two sets of gloves: one as the primary barrier, the second as a thin inner liner in the event the primary barrier fails. When the cleanup is completed, be sure to wash hands and other potentially affected skin surfaces.