



Allen County Solid Waste Management District
(260) 449-7878

MERCURY FACT SHEET

- Mercury can be found in old thermometers, barometers, thermostats, and some other items. It is also found in small amounts in compact fluorescent light bulbs (see www.acwastewatcher.org).
- Safely remove sources of mercury from your home *before* a spill happens by wrapping the above items in paper towel or newspaper and placing in a coffee or other sealable container. This should be labeled and given to Allen County Solid Waste District to properly dispose of.

If a spill occurs:

1. Do not vacuum, mop, or sweep!
2. Remove people and pets from the area without tracking mercury into other areas.
3. OPEN all windows and doors to the outside and CLOSE all windows, doors, and vents to other areas.
4. Cover the spill area with plastic.
5. If the spill is the amount in a thermometer or less and on a hard surface, you can probably clean it up yourself. If it is large or on carpet or upholstery, you should call Allen County Solid Waste District at 260-449-7878.

You will need:

1. Disposable gloves
2. Zip-close bags or plastic bags and tape
3. Stiff paper such as index cards (pennies work for small drops)
4. Eyedropper and /or paint brush
5. Tape— duct or electrical or another type, or shaving cream
6. Damp sponge or paper towels
7. Trash bags
8. Flashlight

Clean up:

1. Without scattering drops, try to scrape mercury together with index cards.
2. Contain the spill area with tape or spray shaving cream around the site to keep mercury drops from rolling away.
3. Use eyedropper or paint brush with tape or shaving cream on the tip to dab up mercury
4. Wipe mercury up with a damp sponge or paper towels
5. Put all materials used into sealed bags and then into trash bag, seal with tape. Place items outside and call AC Solid Waste District during business hours to get your spill site tested and safely remove the clean up materials.