

Tips for dealing with a mercury spill:

- Ventilate and evacuate the room where spill occurred.
- Never try to vacuum spilled mercury.
- Wear gloves.
- Use cardboard or stiff paper to push beads of mercury together.
- An eyedropper or bulb syringe is useful for picking up mercury beads.
- On carpet, cutting and removal of contaminated area may be necessary.
- Place all clean-up supplies and collected mercury in an airtight container.
- Take all mercury to a household hazardous waste collection site.



Do your part. Help keep mercury out of our environment:

- Properly dispose of products containing mercury.
- Properly clean up spills.
- Buy mercury free products.

For Further Information:

Mercury Spills:

Call **911**

Or Ohio EPA (800)282-9378

Mercury Information:

Call Portage County Local Emergency Planning Committee (330)296-0222

Or Portage County Emergency Management Agency (330)297-3607

Or Portage County Health Department (330)296-9919 ext. 116, Jack Madved

Mercury Poisoning information: Poison Control Center (800)222-1222



Local Emergency Planning Committee (LEPC)

Mercury, What you need to know...



Local Emergency Planning Committee (LEPC)

Did you know mercury....

- Is a naturally occurring element that is found in air, water and soil.
- Is colorless, odorless and tasteless.
- Does not break down and is not destroyed when burned.
- Is a shiny, silver-white metal that is liquid at room temperature.
- Is used in a variety of every day items such as but not limited to thermometers, light bulbs, batteries, thermostats, and switches.
- Exposure at high levels can harm the brain, heart, kidneys, lungs, and immune system of people of all ages.
- Is a neurotoxin that can be absorbed through the skin, inhaled or ingested.
- Risks to children are greatest because their nervous systems are still developing.

(Information provided by the
Environmental Protection Agency)

How does mercury affect people's health?

The nervous system is very sensitive to all forms of mercury. Exposure to high levels of metallic mercury can cause permanent damage to the brain and kidneys and to a developing fetus. Long term exposure to low levels of mercury vapors may cause effects including irritability, tremors, vision or hearing changes and memory difficulties. Tests are available to measure mercury levels in the body. Blood or urine samples are used to test for exposure to metallic mercury and to inorganic forms of mercury. Your doctor can take samples and send them to a testing laboratory.



How can you avoid mercury poisoning?

Carefully handle and dispose of products that contain mercury, such as thermometers or fluorescent light bulbs. Do not vacuum spilled mercury because it will vaporize and increase exposure. Follow the clean-up tips in this brochure.

Use Caution Around Mercury:

- Never break open products that contain mercury.
- Do not pour mercury into any house or street drain or open waterway.
- Never burn mercury containing products.
- Do not put mercury containing products in the trash.
- Always properly recycle mercury containing products at a household hazardous waste collection site.

Consumers can make smart shopping choices by buying products that are mercury free...

Mercury Product	Alternative
Thermometers	Digital or red alcohol thermometers
Thermostats	Digital, programmable thermostats
Barometers	Bourbon tube gauge
Blood Pressure gauge	Aneroid blood-pressure gauge
Fluorescent and high intensity bulbs	Low mercury bulbs
Button Batteries	Recycle