

Chemical Spills

Spills are a part of doing business! If you do have a spill and it is too large to handle or is too hazardous please contact the Safety Officer (SO) immediately. Chemical spills larger than one gallon should be cleaned up by the Safety Officer only.



HAZARDOUS SPILL CLEAN-UP PROCEDURES

1. Evacuate personnel from immediate area.
2. Identify spilled chemical.
3. Notify the Safety Officer (SO) and PI of the laboratory.
4. If unsure of any of the following procedures leave the area immediately.
5. Barricade spill area and notify others in surrounding areas.
6. Extinguish all sources of ignition, such as Bunsen burners, etc. Do not turn on/off any electrical switches.
7. Ventilate spill area.
8. Wear appropriate respiratory protection, protective clothing, chemical splash shield, goggles and gloves.
9. Place absorbent material to absorb, divert or contain the spill as needed.
10. Once the spill is contained to control its spread, additional absorbents, neutralizers, or solidification agents can be used to finish cleanup.
11. Document spill cleanup activities, identify cause and determine remedial action.
12. Disposal of all cleanup materials that are either saturated or contaminated with hazardous materials is governed by local, state and federal laws. The Safety Officer (SO) will be responsible for the proper disposal of cleanup materials.

WARNING: Spill "pigs" and absorbents do NOT contain any chemicals to make liquids less toxic, hazardous or flammable. They are simply made from

inert materials designed to absorb and temporarily retain liquids without deteriorating, disintegrating or solidifying. Liquids, when contained in any absorbent material, will continue to be unsafe. Therefore, exercise extreme care when handling, storing or disposing of spill dikes or absorbents containing such liquids. Fuming sulfuric, nitric and strong oxidizing acids will cause absorbents to disintegrate.

Different sorbents to respond to spills include:

- SlikWik (ground corncob material),
- vermiculite,
- 3-M Oil Sorbant pads (square pads and rolls of pad material),
- booms,
- Pigs (long socks or rolls filled with absorbent),
- granular active carbon
- Ansul Spill-X-S.

CHEMICAL PROCEDURES: Do not work with unfamiliar chemicals until you consult the Safety Data Sheets (SDS). If unsure please consult your immediate supervisor or the Safety Officer.

- Always wear the recommended Personal Protective Equipment (PPE). These recommendations are found in the MSDS.
- Contact the Safety Officer for disposal of any hazardous material..

For more information and/or suggestions contact the Environmental Safety Compliance Officer (ESCO) at Ext. 8441 or Email <mailto:umces-safety@umces.edu>