

# SPILLS RESPONSE DOCUMENT

Laboratories must be prepared for spills from the chemicals that they use and/or store in their laboratory. This includes having the appropriate spill kit and emergency equipment set up before using the chemicals.

## Purchasing Spill Kits

The following table shows what is considered a basic spill kit and where these materials can be purchased. However, in many cases, the materials in this basic kit may not be sufficient for situations specific to every lab. In this case, it is important that supervisors assess the volume and type of chemicals being used to stock a spill kit appropriately. The table below outlines how a basic spill kit is stocked.

## Contents of a Basic Spill Kit

Item	Acid	Base	Organic Solvent	Solid	Example Suppliers
Universal absorbent	X	X	X		<a href="#">Chem Stores</a>
General Purpose Socks <i>For Volumes &gt;4L/container</i>	X	X	X		<a href="#">Fisher</a> , <a href="#">ULINE</a>
Neoprene or nitrile gloves	X	X	X	X	<a href="#">Chem Stores</a>
Goggles	X	X	X	X	<a href="#">Chem Stores</a>
Large tweezers	X	X	X	X	<a href="#">Chem Stores</a>
Dustpan & brush	X	X	X	X	<a href="#">Tenaquip</a>
Disposable bags	X	X	X	X	<a href="#">ESF</a>
Leakproof waste container	X	X	X	X	<a href="#">ESF</a>
Hazardous waste labels	X	X	X	X	<a href="#">ESF</a>
Area Closure Sign (Printable version at end of document)	X	X	X	X	(Printable version at end of document)
<b>Optional Materials</b>					
Drain cover <i>When Floor Drains are Present</i>	X	X	X		<a href="#">Tenaquip</a> , <a href="#">Grainger</a>
Caution tape	X	X	X	X	<a href="#">Grainger</a> , <a href="#">Tenaquip</a>
Shoe covers	X	X	X	X	<a href="#">Tenaquip</a> , <a href="#">ULINE</a>
PH indicator	X	X		X	<a href="#">Chem Stores</a>

Some labs may prefer to purchase pre-developed spill kits from suppliers. Not all spill kits are made equal and we recommend comparing the contents of your chosen spill kit to the above list.

Some items require additional spill preparedness/response.

These include: [Hydrofluoric Acid](#), [Mercury](#), and [Biosafety](#).

## Spill Response Steps

1. Notify the lab occupants of the spill.
2. Isolate the immediate spill area.
3. If necessary, evacuate the area.
  - a. Examples of situations that require evacuations include any of the following:
    - i. Large spills (4L+)
    - ii. Spills of highly toxic materials
    - iii. Spills of highly irritant materials (i.e., lacrimators)
    - iv. Anything immediately dangerous to life or health
  - b. If an evacuation occurs:
    - i. Post a sign on the door
    - ii. Call the Spills Team via UW Special Constables Service (ext. 22222)
    - iii. Wait at an agreed upon location while the UW Special Constables dispatch for help
4. If the spill is part of a leak, stop the source of the leak (e.g., right an upturned beaker, plug a hole).
5. Immediately cover the spill with absorbent material.
6. Don appropriate gloves, then pick up the absorbent material and place material in the bag within the spill kit pail.
7. Using tweezers or tongs, pick up any broken glass.
8. Continue to place more absorbent material until no more standing liquid is present.
9. Wipe down the area with wet (water) paper towel (if compatible) and check the pH of the area. Continue wiping the area until the pH is neutral (6-8). Used paper towels will go in the waste bag in the spill kit pail.
10. Label the spill kit pail appropriately as hazardous waste and bring down to ESF for final disposal.

### Exceptions:

- Elemental Mercury (see mercury fact sheet)
- Hydrofluoric Acid (see hydrofluoric acid fact sheet)
- Biohazards (see biohazard emergency response)

# AREA CLOSED

DUE TO SPILL

Do not enter until: \_\_\_\_\_

For more information contact: \_\_\_\_\_

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In Case of Emergency, contact UW Special  
Constable Service at 519-888-4911 or x. 22222.