

Mercury



Household Mercury

Where to find mercury in your home

How to Clean Up Mercury Spills

For spills smaller than a thermometer

1. Evacuate everyone from area of spill. Close ventilation paths (doors, windows, HVAC systems).
2. Put on rubber or latex gloves.
3. Carefully pick up broken glass or debris and place in plastic ziplock bag.
4. Use a squeegee or piece of cardboard to gently sweep visible mercury beads onto a damp paper towel. Use an eye dropper to collect beads if available. Place on paper towel inside plastic bag.
5. Use duct tape to collect smaller beads. Place in bag.
6. Cut and remove affected carpet or upholstery area and add to bag.
7. Dispose of plastic bag at Allen County Solid Waste Management District.

Mercury can cause damage to the liver, kidneys, and brain

Mercury bioaccumulates, meaning it gets more toxic as it is ingested by animals and humans.

3 grams of mercury can contaminate a 60-acre lake.

Preventing Mercury Pollution

- Understand which mercury-containing items you may have in your home.
- Avoid purchasing products that have mercury in them.
- Keep items with mercury out of the trash.
- Appropriately dispose of mercury-containing products.
- Do NOT throw mercury-containing items into the trash or dump mercury down any drains.

Where to dispose of Mercury

Take items to recycling locations identified by the Allen County Solid Waste Management District.

<http://www.acwastewatcher.org/> | 260-449-7878

<https://www.in.gov/idem/recycle/2348.htm> | 800-988-7901

- Thermometers with silver-colored liquid
- Non-electronic thermostats
- Fluorescent & mercury vapor lighting (HID, metal halide, high-pressure sodium, neon, automotive headlamps—blue tint when lit)
- Pilot light sensors in some gas appliances
- Gauges (barometers, manometers, blood pressure and vacuum gauges with silver liquid)
- Switches/relays in some chest freezers, pre-1972 washing machines, sump and bilge pumps, electric space heaters, silent light switches, vehicles and farm equipment
- Clothes irons with automatic or tilt shut-offs
- Elemental Mercury: silver-colored liquid
- Vintage toys: toy drawing screens, mercury maze games
- LA Gear athletic shoes: made before 1997 with flashing lights
- Batteries: mercuric oxide and some alkaline batteries
- Paint: latex manufactured before 1990, some oil-based paints
- Thimerosal or merbromin—antibacterial products



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