

Acid Spills (hydrochloric or sulfuric acid):

1. Neutralize spill with sodium bicarbonate/baking soda
2. Wait until bubbling/fizzing has stopped
3. When using a neutralizing spill kit, the kits are buffered and will not have a bubbling action. Be careful not to over-neutralize
4. Test pH of the spill after the neutralization reaction has stopped with pH paper
5. Once pH is between 6 and 9, the material can be transferred into an appropriate secondary container for disposal
6. Wipe all surfaces with a sponge and wash all of the material down the sink.

**Some acids cannot be neutralized and will require special procedure for spill clean-up.
Examples: chromic acid and hydrofluoric acid.

Base Spills (Sodium or Potassium hydroxide):

1. Neutralize spill with a DILUTE acid (such as vinegar, 3M HCl, citric acid)
2. Wait until bubbling/fizzing has stopped
 - a. When using a neutralizing spill kit, the kits are buffered and will not have a bubbling action. Be careful not to over-neutralize
3. Test pH of the spill after the neutralization reaction has stopped with pH paper
4. Once pH is between 6 and 9, the material can be transferred into an appropriate secondary container for disposal
5. Wipe all surfaces with a sponge and wash all of the material down the sink.

Organic Spills (Acetone, Benzene, Ethylene glycol, Formaldehyde, Methylene chloride, Perchloroethylene, Toluene, Xylene, 1,3-butadiene)

1. Use an absorbent medium such as sand or vermiculite to absorb the spill and prevent runoff.
2. Transfer the spilled material into an appropriate secondary container.
3. Mark the container with the "Hazardous Waste" label and contact the Environmental Health

Solid Waste:

1. Most solid chemical spills can be swept up and transferred directly to a secondary container after the spill occurs.
2. Mark the container with a "Hazardous Waste" label and contact the Environmental Health Safety Office.

Mercury Spills:

1. Mercury spills require special clean up procedures
2. Utilize the special Mercury Spill Kit when dealing with mercury spills. Instructions for clean up are located on the Mercury Spill Kit container.
3. For broken mercury thermometers, clean up spilled mercury as described above
 - a. and collect mercury and broken thermometer in a sealable plastic bag for disposal.
4. Contact Environmental Health Safety Office.
** For mercury spills greater than 1 thermometer, contact Campus Police.

Metal Wastes:

Solutions containing the following metals cannot go down the sink under any circumstances: **arsenic (As), barium (Ba), cadmium (Cd), chromium (Cr), copper (Cu), lead (Pb), mercury (Hg), molybdenum (Mo), nickel (Ni), selenium (Se), silver (Ag), and zinc (Zn)**. Special waste containers will be placed in the lab to collect each type of metal for subsequent disposal by environmental health and safety personnel.
