



# Summit County Public Health

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## Guidelines for Handling a Large Mercury Spill

Large mercury spills are defined as spills that are more than one pound (>2 tablespoons).

Ohio Revised Code (ORC) 3750.06 states that a mercury release in excess of the Reportable Quantity (RQ) of one pound (>2 tablespoons) requires: (1) verbal notification to the local fire department, the Local Emergency Planning Commission (LEPC) and the Ohio EPA/State Emergency Response Commission (SERC) within 30 minutes and; (2) written notification to the LEPC and the Ohio EPA/SERC within 30 days.

### Get professional spill response help!

**For a listing of mercury spill contractors, call the Ohio EPA's Spill Hotline at 1-800-282-9378.**

### Before the mercury spill contractor arrives:

1. Evacuate all people and animals from the room where the mercury was spilled and close off the room. Remove all clothing or shoes that may have had contact with the mercury.
2. Without walking through the areas of spilled mercury, open the room windows and allow the air to move outdoors. You can place a fan in the spill room window to force the indoor air outside.
3. Surround and contain the mercury spill. Use a soft material and prevent liquid mercury from running into cracks, crevices and drains.
  - Never use a household vacuum cleaner or Shop Vac® to clean up mercury!
  - Never wash mercury-soiled items in the washing machine!
  - Never use a broom on a mercury spill because it will scatter the mercury droplets and make them harder to find and pick up!
  - Never pour mercury down the drain!
4. Place a towel or rolled up blanket under the door to seal off the room.
5. For large mercury spills more than one pound (>2 tablespoons), ORC 3750.06 requires the home or business owner to notify the local fire department, the Local Emergency Planning Committee (LEPC), and the Ohio EPA/State Emergency Response Commission (SERC). Federal regulation requires they contact the National Response Center (NRC) at 1-800-424-8802.

**Ohio Mercury Reduction Group (OMRG)**  
122 S. Front Street  
Columbus, Ohio 43215  
614-644-3469  
E-mail: [www.epa.state.oh.us/](http://www.epa.state.oh.us/)

**Ohio Department of Health**  
Health Assessment Section  
246 N. High Street  
Columbus, Ohio 43215  
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**Ohio Environmental Protection Agency**  
State Emergency Response Commission  
(SERC)  
1800 Watermark Drive  
Columbus, OH 43215-1099  
24-Hour Emergency Spill Hotline:  
In Ohio: (800) 282-9378  
Out of State: (614) 224-0946