

Small Chemical Spill Guide

A small chemical spill is a volume which is routinely handled by personnel in the lab or shop and generally does not exceed the capacity of the area's spill kit. Review your laboratory or shop specific spill response procedures prior to working with hazardous materials.

The following general procedures should be followed by laboratory personnel to clean up small spills:

1. Notify people in the immediate area.
2. Evacuate all nonessential personnel from the spill area.
3. If spilled material is flammable, turn off ignition and heat sources.
4. Avoid breathing vapors of the spilled material.
5. Maintain or establish exhaust ventilation, if safe to do so, by opening the sash on the fume hood. Do not open doors or windows.
6. Wear appropriate personal protective equipment (PPE) such as gloves, lab coats, goggles, and aprons to prevent exposure and minimize contamination.
7. Obtain a laboratory spill kit.
8. Using absorbent material, confine the spill if this can be done without risk of injury or contamination.
9. Remove sharp objects using mechanical means such as tongs or forceps, not with hands.
10. Clean up the spill by working from the outside of the spill toward the center to minimize the spread of contamination.
11. If using a neutralizing agent, be sure to allow adequate contact time to ensure complete neutralization.
12. Properly dispose of spill cleanup debris according to the procedures outlined in your laboratory or shop SOPs. Be sure to identify the spilled material with a label or marker
13. Wash hands and other exposed skin after completing clean-up.
14. Notify EH&S if you require assistance or additional information.
15. Ensure the spill kit is replenished.

Note: Small chemical spill cleanup is the responsibility of the department.