



Don't Mess with Mercury Game: Questions and Answers

www.atsdr.cdc.gov/dontmesswithmercury

Oh No! You've spilled mercury. Now what? Show what you know about the dangers of messing with mercury.

Select your answers below. Use the answer key at the end to see how many questions you answered correctly.

1. The chemical symbol for mercury is Mr.
 - A. True
 - B. False
2. Mercury is a man-made chemical.
 - A. True
 - B. False
3. People mine mercury to make useful things.
 - A. True
 - B. False
4. What is a common name for mercury?
 - A. Liquid gold
 - B. Quicksilver
 - C. Goop
5. What part of the Earth does mercury come from?
 - A. The Core
 - B. The Crust
 - C. The Trees
6. Which of these could have mercury in them?
 - A. Plastic
 - B. Jewelry
 - C. Flip-flops



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7. Which of these things have mercury in them?
 - A. Eco-friendly light bulbs
 - B. Aluminum cans
 - C. Toy cars

 8. Which of these things have mercury in them?
 - A. Aluminum pots
 - B. Glass thermometers
 - C. Plastic

 9. Mercury sticks to skin.
 - A. True
 - B. False

 10. Mercury is the only liquid metal (at room temperature).
 - A. True
 - B. False

 11. Mercury drops are shiny.
 - A. True
 - B. False

 12. Heating mercury is dangerous.
 - A. True
 - B. False

 13. Mercury breaks into tiny droplets when spilled or touched.
 - A. True
 - B. False

 14. Mercury vapors tend to move toward the
 - A. ceiling
 - B. floor
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15. Mercury vapors
 - A. smell like rotten eggs
 - B. have a greenish glow
 - C. cannot be seen or smelled

16. At room temperature, mercury is a liquid and will evaporate.
 - A. True
 - B. False

17. Mercury is heavy. Just a tablespoon of mercury weighs about the same as
 - A. a car
 - B. a key
 - C. a baseball

18. Only grown-ups should clean up spilled mercury.
 - A. True
 - B. False

19. Vacuuming a mercury spill makes it worse.
 - A. True
 - B. False

20. If mercury spills on a shirt, the shirt should be
 - A. thrown out
 - B. washed

21. If mercury spills, you should
 - A. tell an adult
 - B. clean it up
 - C. cry



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22. Mercury on someone's shoes can
- A. dissolve the shoes
 - B. get mercury all over the house
 - C. go away on its own
23. Harm from mercury can last forever.
- A. True
 - B. False
24. Mercury is dangerous for people of any age.
- A. True
 - B. False
25. Any amount of mercury can make you sick, even tiny amounts.
- A. True
 - B. False
26. Pets should stay away from mercury.
- A. True
 - B. False
27. Too much mercury in your body can make you moody.
- A. True
 - B. False
28. Mercury can cause harm in many parts of the body.
- A. True
 - B. False
29. Breathing mercury vapors is most likely to harm the
- A. brain
 - B. feet
 - C. ears
30. People most commonly get mercury in their bodies when they
- A. see it
 - B. swallow it
 - C. breathe it



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ANSWER KEY

1	B. False The chemical symbol for mercury is Hg.
2	B. False Mercury is a natural element.
3	A. True People mine mercury to make useful things but they have to be very careful with it.
4	B. Quicksilver Mercury is sometimes called quicksilver.
5	B. The Crust Mercury comes from the earth's crust.
6	B. Jewelry Some jewelry from other countries may contain mercury.
7	A. Eco-friendly light bulbs Eco-friendly compact fluorescent light bulbs have mercury in them, so be careful not to break them.
8	B. Glass thermometers Some thermometers have mercury in them, but most don't.
9	A. True Mercury sticks to skin and gives off vapors that get in your body.
10	A. True Mercury is the only liquid metal at room temperature. A metal...and liquid. Weird, huh?
11	A. True Mercury drops are shiny.
12	A. True Heating mercury is very dangerous. Don't mess with mercury!
13	A. True Mercury can break into hundreds or thousands of tiny pieces when spilled or touched.
14	A. Ceiling Mercury vapors are heavy and usually move downward.
15	C. Cannot be seen or smelled Mercury vapors are invisible and odorless.
16	A. True At room temperature mercury is a liquid and will evaporate.
17	C. A baseball A tablespoon of mercury weighs about as much as a baseball.



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18	A. True Only grown-ups should clean up spilled mercury. If you find mercury, tell an adult to stay safe!
19	A. True Vacuuming a mercury spill makes it worse. Don't ever vacuum mercury.
20	A. Thrown out If mercury spills on a shirt, the shirt should be thrown away. Never wash clothes with mercury on them.
21	A. Tell an adult If mercury spills, don't touch it. Tell an adult.
22	B. Get mercury all over the house Mercury on your shoes can track it all over the house.
23	A. True Mercury can cause permanent harm. So don't mess with it.
24	A. True Mercury isn't safe for anyone.
25	A. True Even tiny amounts of mercury can make you sick.
26	A. True Mercury and mercury vapors can hurt pets, too.
27	A. True Too much mercury in your body can make you moody (and weak, and sick!).
28	A. True Mercury is bad for many parts of your body.
29	A. Brain The brain usually suffers the most harm from mercury.
30	C. Breathe it People most commonly get mercury in their bodies from breathing it.