



Mercury-Containing Objects: In Schools and your Home

There are still many mercury-containing objects in schools and homes today.
Some of the most common sources are:

	GLASS THERMOMETERS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Commonly found in school nurse's office (thermometers used to measure fevers), kitchen utensil drawer (meat thermometers) and even freezers and refrigerators. • Most home exposures to mercury are due to broken thermometers.
	MERCURIC OXIDE AND CELL BUTTON BATTERIES	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Used to power calculators, keyless-entry remotes, digital thermometers and laser pointers.
	BAROMETERS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A weather instrument commonly found in homes and science labs.
	HYDROMETERS AND OTHER SCIENTIFIC INSTRUMENTS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Found in science rooms and labs. • Additional examples include hygrometers, mercury spectral tubes and mercury molecular motion devices.
	INORGANIC MERCURY COMPOUNDS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Found in science lab storage lockers. • Examples include Mercury Chloride, Mercury Iodine, Mercury Nitrate, Mercury Oxide, Mercury Sulfate, Million's Solution, Nessler's Reagent and Zenker's Solution.
	FUNGICIDES AND PESTICIDES	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Found in home garages and school facility supply storage areas. • Properly dispose of any products made before 1994.
	VACUUM GAUGES	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Found in science labs. • Used in physical science experiments that involve vacuum filtering, siphoning, leakage checking, pumping and indirect transporting of liquids.
	LATEX OR MARINE PAINT AND FLOOR VARNISHES	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Commonly found in school facility supply storage areas, basements and home garages. • Properly dispose of any products made before 1992.
	FLUORESCENT LAMPS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • These energy saving light bulbs are commonly used in overhead lighting. • Compact fluorescent light bulbs (CFLs) often replace incandescent bulbs for lighting.
	THERMOSTATS, SWITCHES AND OTHER ELECTRICAL DEVICES	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Metallic mercury is often used in wall thermostats for heating and cooling. • It can also be found in flame sensors, fire alarms, safety valves and "silent" light switches.
	BLOOD PRESSURE DEVICES	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Commonly found in school nurse's office and medical supply storage areas.

www.atsdr.cdc.gov/dontmesswithmercury

don't mess with **MERCURY**

Updated June 2015



U.S. Department of Health and Human Services
Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry