

Sample Mercury School Policy

Most cases of mercury poisoning occur when mercury is spilled in a home or a school. The small amount of mercury in a fever thermometer is enough to poison all people who are in the area for any length of time. It is therefore important that careful consideration be taken when using mercury-containing products in the school setting and all unnecessary mercury-containing products should be removed and properly disposed of. Because mercury spills are costly and difficult to clean up and the effects of mercury on humans is disastrous, it is a safer choice to remove all mercury-containing devices from the school setting.

Identification of Mercury-containing Products in the School Setting

All mercury-containing materials must be identified and catalogued to ensure remediation of these materials is complete and effective. Mercury is used in a number of different products and it is therefore important to check all of these products for mercury.

Removal of Mercury-containing Products

All efforts should be made to remove all mercury-containing materials from the school setting to ensure the safety of school attendees and staff. While awaiting pickup mercury items should be carefully stored in a sealed, heavy plastic bag. The bag should be placed in a sealed container and preferably stored in a garage or shed until the material can be collected. The nearest mercury-collection center or solid waste authority should be contacted to arrange pickup of the mercury products.

Handling Mercury Spills

For information on how to handle both small and large mercury spills, call the Ohio EPA's Spill Hotline at 1-800-282-9378. Guidelines are also listed in ODH's mercury packet, at the following Web site: http://www.odh.ohio.gov/odhprograms/eh/hlth_as/chemfs1.aspx.

Superintendent _____ Effective Date _____

District Representative

IPM Program Supervisor