

recovered mercury into a second heavy duty (freezer) zip-top bag and put the index cards into the first zip-top bag.

- An eyedropper can be used to pick up any remaining mercury beads. Use your flashlight to locate remaining mercury beads and tilt the eyedropper at an angle to the surface to collect the mercury. Once all of the visible beads have been collected, put the recovered mercury into the second zip-top bag and the empty eyedropper into the first zip-top bag.
- To pick up very tiny beads of mercury, wrap a piece of masking tape or scotch tape around your finger, sticky side out, and gently dab at the contaminated area. Place the tape in the first zip-top bag when finished.
- If possible, sprinkle the contaminated area with sulfur or zinc powder. Use enough to cover the area with a fine layer, but don't over-apply. Moisten the powder with water after you sprinkle it on the contaminated area. If you use zinc powder, you'll have to moisten the powder prior to applying it also. Rub the powder into any surface cracks and crevices with a damp paper towel. Use index cards to pick up the powder -mercury mixture and put all material into the first zip-top bag. Then rub the area with additional damp paper towels until all residues are gone. (Sulfur and zinc powders bind with mercury to form a safer amalgam and help ensure that you get as much mercury as possible. These powders can be obtained at many garden centers, pharmacies, agriculture supply stores and safety equipment suppliers. You may also use a commercially available mercury spill powder containing sodium thiosulfate and finely powdered EDTA (ethylenediaminetetraacetic acid). If you use a commercial powder, follow the instructions provided on the container.)
- You may turn the heat or circulation systems back on but keep the door to this room closed and the window open for at least a few hours, 24 - 48 hours would be best.

Spills on a Rug or other Removable Soft Surface

If the spill occurred on a rug or other removable soft surface, the contaminated material should be carefully removed and disposed of.

- While minimizing contact with the spill area, pick up any large pieces of glass from the broken thermometer and place them on a paper towel. Carefully fold the paper towel around the broken glass and put it in a heavy duty (freezer) zip-top bag.
- Hold a flashlight at an angle to the surface to try to determine the extent of the spill. The mercury beads will reflect light from the flashlight. Check a large area around the spill.
- Carefully pick up the rug or other removable item. Take care not to tilt or shake the rug or item any more than necessary to minimize the spread of mercury. Gently place the contaminated rug or item into a trash bag.
- Use your flashlight to check for any remaining mercury beads on the adjacent floor or other surface areas. If necessary, clean this area following the instructions above.
- Once you no longer see visible mercury, you may turn the heat or circulation systems back on but keep the door to this room closed and the window open for at least a few hours, 24 - 48 hours would be best.

Spills on Carpeted Surfaces

If the spill occurred on a carpeted surface, the contaminated section of carpet should be carefully removed and disposed of since it is almost impossible to effectively pick up mercury spilled onto carpeted surfaces.

- While minimizing contact with the spill area, pick up any large pieces of glass from the broken thermometer and place them on a paper towel. Carefully fold the paper towel around the broken glass and put it in a heavy duty (freezer) zip-top bag.

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