

# HOW TO CLEAN UP A MERCURY SPILLAGE

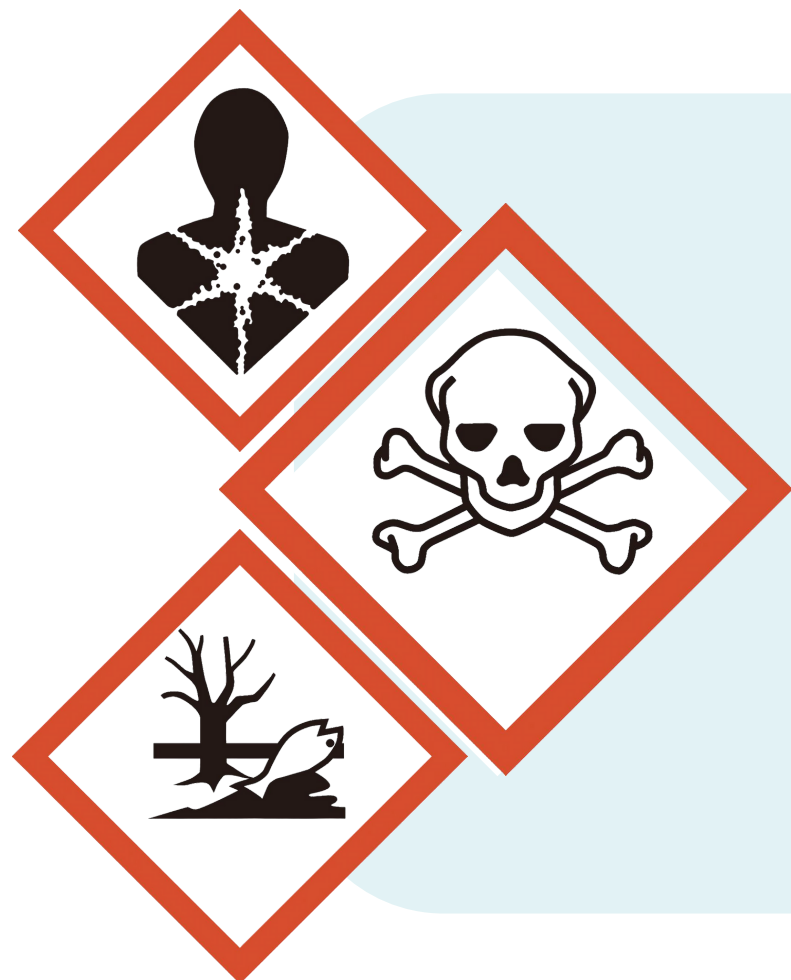


**UTM**  
UNIVERSITI TEKNOLOGI MALAYSIA

ACUTE INHALATION TOXICITY - VAPOURS. CORROSIVE TO METALS. REPRODUCTIVE TOXICITY.

## HAZARDS

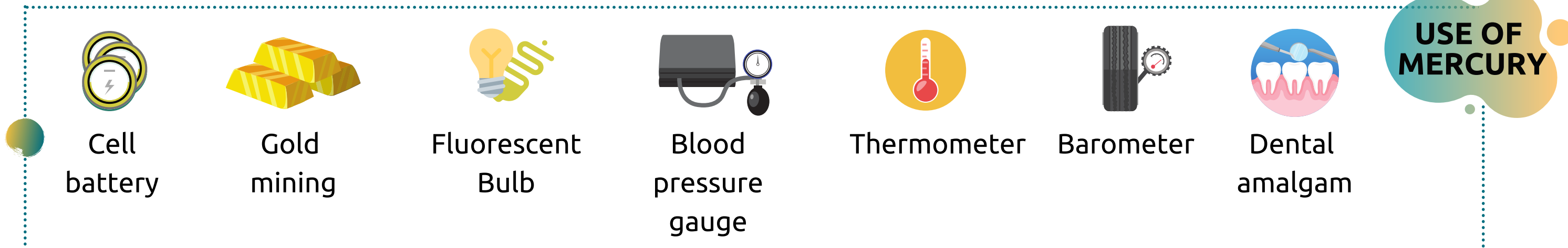
SPECIFIC TARGET ORGAN TOXICITY - CENTRAL NERVOUS SYSTEM (CNS) & KIDNEY. TOXIC TO AQUATIC LIFE AND LONG TERM EXPOSURE EFFECT



### What is Mercury?

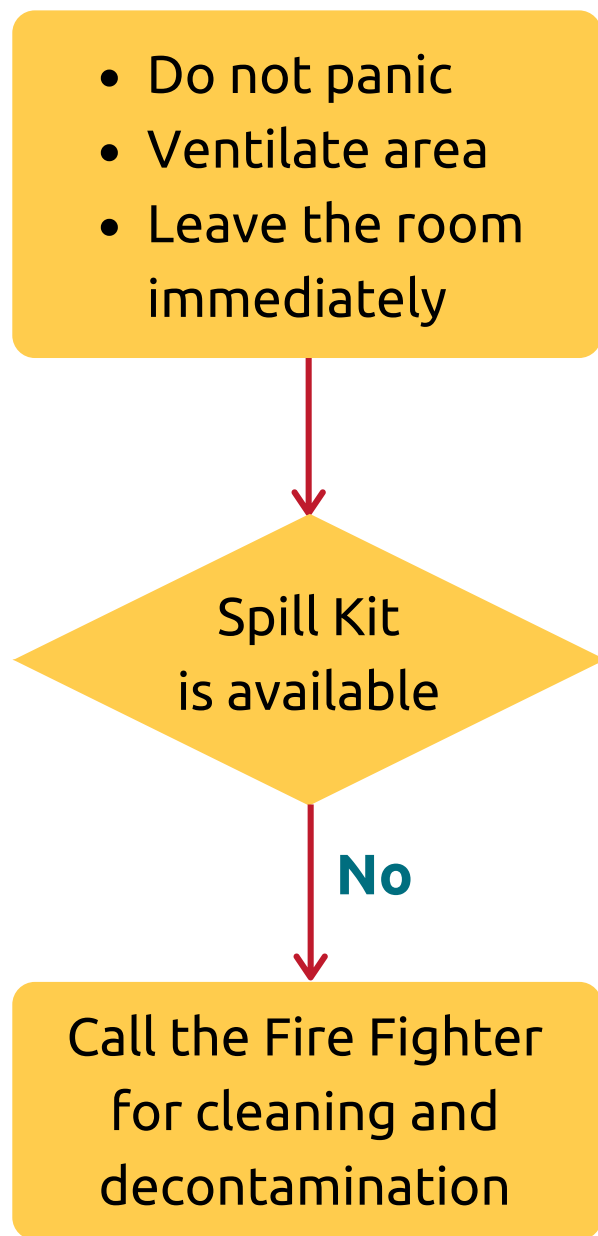
Mercury is a naturally-occurring chemical element found in rock in the earth's crust, including in deposits of coal. On the periodic table, it has the symbol "**Hg**" and its atomic number is 80. It exists in several forms:

- ✓ elemental (metallic) mercury
- ✓ inorganic mercury compounds
- ✓ methylmercury and other organic compounds



### Mercury Spills Clean Up Steps

- Do not panic
- Ventilate area
- Leave the room immediately



**1. Evacuate & ventilate**  
Immediately isolate & ventilate area.

**2. PPE**  
Wear appropriate PPE as referred to the SDS.

**3. Control & contain**  
Control & contain spill from spreading. Sprinkle sulfur powder over the contaminated area. Spray a water mist over the powder to activate the powder.

**4. Segregate**  
Remove any small objects & broken pieces into an anti leaking container. Place any contaminated rug, cloth and others in hazardous waste plastic bag.

**5. Collect Mercury**  
Using stiff paper/ cardboard, push the mercury beads together from the outside towards the middle. Carefully pour/use dropper to put the mercury droplets into a container and secure the lid.

**6. Inspection**  
Use a flashlight to check for any remaining mercury droplets. Use the sticky side of tape to pick up any droplets that could not be picked up with the cardboard.

**7. Waste Disposal**  
Gather all solid & liquid mercury contaminated material in the hazardous waste plastic bag and disposed as scheduled wastes.

**8. Decontamination & Report**  
Ventilate the area for 24 hours. Clean up yourself & report the incident to the respective supervisor/ staff/ OSHE UTM.

**REMINDER!**

- ✗ Do not use vacuum.
- ✗ Do not use broom.
- ✗ Never pour mercury down the drain.
- ✗ Never walk around near the contaminated area.

### Mercury Spill Kit



- Dropper
- Sulfur powder
- Mercury label
- Cardboard
- Nitrile glove
- Plastic container
- Torch light
- Sealed plastic bag
- Sticky tape

Chemical Management Unit,  
University Laboratory Management Centre  
[www.utm.my/cmc](http://www.utm.my/cmc)

