



# Safety Gram

April  
2019

## Spill Kits

### Requirements:

If your lab works with hazardous items: chemicals, biologicals, etc. You *are required* to have quick access to a spill kit. Not all spill kits are created equal below are some examples of the types of spill kits you may need:

Examples of Hazardous Materials:	Examples of Spill Clean-Up Materials:
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>· All Liquids</li> <li>· Strong Acids</li> <li>· Strong Bases</li> <li>· Mercury</li> <li>· Radioactive Material</li> <li>· Hydrofluoric Acid</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>· Vermiculite/ Kitty Litter</li> <li>· Sodium Bicarbonate</li> <li>· Citric Acid</li> <li>· Mercury spill kit</li> <li>· Contact Risk Management</li> <li>· Hydrofluoric Acid spill kit and Calcium Gluconate</li> </ul>

Spill kits can be purchased through a variety of companies, but an easy inexpensive way is to visit Chem Stores for your individual needs. They will be able to sell you the individual items that you may need for your lab. Online you can easily spend one to two hundred dollars for a simple kit, but Chem Stores can put a very good one together for \$35.

### Safety Committee

The Chemistry and Biochemistry Department Safety Committee purpose is to help protect researchers, workers, and students in the department. Please contact us with any questions, concerns, or suggestions about lab safety.

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# Spill Stories

In the last month we have had two spill that were reported. In the first incident mercury was spilled in a lab after hours. The students in the lab did not know what to do, so they called BYU Police Dispatch. They in turn called Risk Management, however neither the lab nor Risk Management had a mercury spill kit on hand. This caused a last minute approval to get campus police to let them into the Chem Stores to pick up a spill kit.

Second incident- a student accidentally spilled about 200 mL's of Sodium Hydroxide on himself, another lab mate, as well as all over the floor and counter. TAs and assistants quickly responded to the liquid on the students, and then quickly attended to the spill. A spill kit was available and was in a very visible place, where all in the lab knew where it was. This helped prevent others from being exposed or injured.

## Action

- Evaluate your lab for the hazards you may have
- Update or add a spill kit to your lab
- Use a sign or something that will help clearly indicate where your spill kit is stored
- Train all lab workers on spill kits

**SPILL KIT  
LOCATED  
HERE**

Keep in mind that any spill greater than 4 liters or containing materials of unknown toxicity, carcinogens, radioactive materials, and BSL2 classified materials must be cleaned up by Risk Management. Similarly, chemicals containing heavy metals (barium, cadmium, lead, mercury, silver, selenium, arsenic, or barium) must be disposed of in an unwanted lab material container.

