

## CHEMICAL SPILL CLEANUP GUIDE

Cleanup of chemical spills can be dangerous and complex, and may be regulated by state and federal laws. In order to protect College employees, students, and the public, certain spills require outside assistance from emergency response agencies and contractors. Before attempting to clean up a chemical spill the following criteria must be met:

1. You must be attendant at the time of the spill
2. You must be able to control the area and protect others from inadvertent exposure
3. You must know what was spilled
4. You must know how much was spilled
5. You must be familiar with the hazards associated with the spilled material, including
  - a. Physical properties (solid, liquid, gas)
  - b. Chemical hazards (flammability, corrosivity, reactivity, etc.)
  - c. Health hazards (toxicity, exposure routes, etc.)
6. You must be trained to clean up the spilled materials using documented cleanup procedures
7. You must have necessary cleanup materials and equipment on-hand (you may not depart the room/immediate area to retrieve equipment or supplies)
8. You must be able to safely clean up the spill using only personal protective equipment you would normally use to work with the material
9. You must be able to clean up the spilled material and seal it in an appropriate waste container within 10 minutes of starting cleanup

You may not do the following

1. Directly assist<sup>1</sup> with spills of materials belonging to others outside your workgroup
2. Directly assist with cleanup if you were not attendant at the time of the spill
3. Attempt any spill cleanup requiring respiratory protection
4. Attempt to clean up any material for which ACGIH publishes an exposure Ceiling<sup>2</sup> limit (exc. in functioning chemical fume hoods)

You may clean up the following materials without regard to volume or time limits

- Motor oil, gear oil, hydraulic fluid, and other petroleum-based lubricants
- Automotive antifreeze (any concentration)
- Uncontaminated pump oil, paraffin oil, and mineral oil
- Latex and oil based paints and enamels
- Adhesives
- Household detergents and cleaning solutions

Cleanup residuals must be submitted to Environmental Health and Safety for proper disposal.

### For emergency assistance call **911**

For advice and non-emergency assistance contact Environmental Health and Safety

Manager	527-5966
Safety Coordinator	527-5946

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<sup>1</sup> **Directly assist** means any action to physically clean up spilled material. It does not mean bringing supplies or equipment to those cleaning up a spill.

<sup>2</sup> <https://www.osha.gov/dsg/annotated-pels/tablez-1.html>