

Spill Control Kit Reference Guide

New chemical spill control kits have been installed throughout the Morningside campus on all floors where laboratories are located. These kits are designed to handle small quantities of most acids, solvents, and weak caustics, and are sealed by tamper-proof tape to deter pilfering and to indicate if the kit has been opened. If you must use the kit, or if it is opened for any reason, please report this to EH&S so that the kit's contents can be replenished.

This Kit is not designed for Hydrofluoric Acid, Radioactive Material, or Mercury Spills.

EH&S spill kits should only be used for relatively small, manageable spills. For an unmanageable spill, **Call EH&S at (212) 854-8749** or **Public Safety after hours at (212) 854-5555**.

To decide if you have a manageable spill, ask yourself:

- Do you know what chemical was spilled?
- Do you have access to a MSDS for the spilled chemical?
- Do you have Personal Protective Equipment to protect yourself from the spill hazards?
- Do you have the necessary materials to clean up the spill?
- Are you trained to use the spill control kit for this chemical?

If you answered **NO** to any of the above questions or need assistance with the spill cleanup, evacuate and secure the area and seek assistance. Once again, **Call EH&S at (212) 854-8749** or **Public Safety after hours at (212) 854-5555** for unmanageable spills.

Clean up techniques for manageable spills

Please consult the MSDS for specific instructions for spill response; the following are general guidelines.

- Alert others in the immediate area to the presence of the spill.
- Turn off any device(s), instrument(s), or machine appliance(s) that could exacerbate the hazards of the spill.
- Don appropriate Personal Protective Equipment, including eye protection, lab coat, and gloves before beginning cleanup

Acids Only

- 1) Slowly apply the Spill-X-A neutralizer to the outer edges of the spill, working inward, and wait for the neutralization reaction to cease.
- 2) Using the dust pan and broom, sweep debris and place it into the hazardous waste bag.
- 3) Check pH of the area. If pH is still acidic, repeat the above two steps.
- 4) Remove any residue with a Universal Absorbent Pad. Wipe down area with wet paper towel and mild soap.
- 5) Dispose pad and paper towels into hazardous waste bag.
- 6) Dispose contaminated personal protective equipment (i.e. gloves) and dust pan and broom into hazardous waste bag.
- 7) Seal bag with tape and attach a completed chemical/hazardous waste label on the bag.
- 8) Submit for a chemical/hazardous waste pickup request as soon as possible at <http://vesta.cumc.columbia.edu/ehs/wastepickup/>

Other Liquids (i.e. Solvents/Flammables)

- 1) Slowly apply the Xsorb Spill Clean-up absorbent to the outer edges of the spill, working inward, and wait until the liquid is absorbed.
- 2) Using the dust pan and broom, sweep debris and place it into the hazardous waste bag.
- 3) Remove any residue with a Universal Absorbent Pad. Wipe down area with wet paper towel and mild soap.
- 4) Dispose pad and paper towels into hazardous waste bag.

- 5) Dispose contaminated personal protective equipment (i.e. gloves) and dust pan and broom into hazardous waste bag.
- 6) Seal bag with tape and attach a completed chemical/hazardous waste label on the bag.
- 7) Submit for a chemical/hazardous waste pickup request as soon as possible at <http://vesta.cumc.columbia.edu/ehs/wastepickup/>