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## Mercury Thermometers

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Certain thermometers contain mercury which can be a hazard if broken. Exposure to mercury even in small amounts may cause health problems.

### How do I tell if my thermometer has mercury in it?

- Is the liquid in the thermometer any color other than silver? Then it is most likely alcohol.
- Is it silver? Then it may be mercury (see picture).

If there is a paper calibration strip inside of the thermometer that includes the words “mercury free”, then the liquid in the thermometer is not mercury. If you do **NOT** see the words “mercury free,” **assume that the liquid is mercury.**



Thermometer

Mercury thermometers are used to measure temperatures. They are easily identified by the silver colored tip.

### What if I have a mercury thermometer?

The mercury containing thermometer should be properly disposed of and replaced with a non-mercury thermometer. Call Environment, Health & Safety at 734-763-4568 to request a collection for proper disposal.

### What if my mercury thermometer breaks?

Never attempt to clean up a mercury spill. Immediately contact the Department of Public Safety & Security (DPSS) at 734-763-1131. After the spill has been reported to DPSS:

- Have everyone else leave the area, don't let anyone including pets walk through the mercury on their way out.
- Open all windows to the outside if possible.
- If you suspect that your shoes or clothes have contamination on them, remove them before leaving the immediate area of the spill to avoid spreading contamination.