



Mercury Handling, Clean-up Procedure and Return of Mercury Displacement Relays and Mercury Tilt Switches

- Exposed mercury will give off vapors at room temperature. Ventilate the exposed area until the spill is cleaned up. A common clinical thermometer has enough mercury to contaminate a room 100 feet by 100 feet by 15 feet if not ventilated.
- When handling mercury you should wear hand protection such as latex or nitrile gloves. Use good personal hygiene. Do not eat, drink, or touch your mouth, nose and eyes until you have thoroughly washed your hands.

Clean-up procedure

- Useful materials for clean up include:
 - A small sealable container.
 - A piece of sponge or paper towel.
 - A small piece of rigid paper or plastic to use as a scoop for larger droplets of mercury.
 - A small amount of water.

Never use a vacuum cleaner to pick up mercury. This will contaminate the machine and vaporize the mercury over a wider area.

Use a minimum amount of materials to limit the amount of materials to be disposed of. Many laboratory supply organizations sell spill kits. One of those is Lab Safety Supply (1-800-356-0783).

- Be sure there are no electrical hazards before starting the clean-up operation.
- Remove all jewelry that may accidentally come in contact with the mercury. Mercury readily dissolves gold.
- Use a damp piece of sponge to guide larger droplets of mercury onto the paper or plastic scoop and deposit them into the sealable container.
- The small droplets of mercury can be picked up by the damp sponge or towel and deposited into the container.
- **Place all the contaminated materials into the sealable container.**
- Label the container as "Mercury Contaminated Waste."
- **Any device containing mercury should never be sent to a landfill or incinerated. It should be sent to an approved mercury-recycling center. Contact your local solid waste management authority for instructions on disposal or recycling of mercury and mercury-contaminated materials.**

Procedure for Evaluation and Return of Non-damaged Mercury Displacement Relays and Tilt Switches

- Please contact AEC at 888-847-6552 to obtain a Returned Goods Authorization number (RGA) and obtain authorization to return the products.
- Mercury containing products manufactured by AEC may be returned for evaluation to:
American Electronic Components
1101 Lafayette St.
Elkhart, IN 46516
- AEC will, evaluate the returned products and send, those which we determine to have seen their expected full life, to a consolidator or re-cycler, who will remove and recycle the mercury and all other parts of the products that are recyclable or reusable.
- The assigned RGA number must be clearly marked on the shipping cartons.
- Proper disposal of Mercury containing products is encouraged. AEC will evaluate returned products and dispose of those made or marketed by AEC only. Those products not made or marketed by AEC are the responsibility of other parties.

Breached relays or switches cannot be returned to AEC.