

## Mercury and Mercury Thermometers Reduction Program

Broken mercury thermometers and other mercury spills are very costly and time consuming to clean up. Mercury is toxic, so it presents hazards to laboratory personnel, EH&S staff, and the environment. These accidents do occur and should try to be avoided. EH&S recommends switching to non-mercury thermometers whenever possible. Although some laboratory applications require mercury thermometers because of their higher accuracy, most can be satisfied with one of the many non-toxic choices offered in all laboratory product catalogs.

Here are three easy ways to avoid mercury spills:

1. Purchase and use non-mercury thermometers.
2. Always use secondary containment, like a tub or tray, under containers or equipment that contain mercury.
3. Do not keep mercury in your laboratory if you know that it will never be used. Instead, dispose of mercury through EH&S at no cost.



Mercury Vacuum



Mercury Vapor Analyzer

\*Pictures are of some instruments EH&S uses to cleanup mercury spills.