

Pharmaceutical Spills

Spill Kit Recommendations:

- *Personal Protective Equipment to be used “only” for spill cleanup*
 - *(ex. thick rubber gloves, splash goggles, shoe covers)*
- *Bucket*
- *1 gallon plastic container for very small spills*
- *Plastic dustpan and brush*
- *Chemical resistant bags*
- *Vermiculite or kitty litter*
- *Hazardous waste tags or labels*

Minor Incidents

Minor incidents are those occurrences where a small quantity of pharmaceutical waste has been spilled or released and there is no threat to the environment. Examples of such incidents would be a broken container or a container failure. Once there is a release the material must be handled as a hazardous waste if the material is a characteristic waste (flammable, corrosive, oxidizer, reactive, heavy metal) or listed as a hazardous waste (ex. Epinephrine). Hazardous pharmaceutical spills are disqualified from being handled as universal pharmaceutical waste. Materials must be contained and tagged for proper disposal. If the material is non hazardous, such as sample of Aleve, then the pills can be placed back in container and it can be put into the universal pharmaceutical waste container for proper disposal.

The following steps are to be taken by facility personnel in the event of a minor spill:

- 1) Determine the nature of the spill or release
- 2) Don appropriate personal protective equipment (PPE). The nature of the substance will determine appropriate PPE.
- 3) Blanket the spill with absorbent material, such as vermiculite or absorbent pads.
- 4) Collect and package all contaminated material and label as hazardous waste to be picked up by Environmental Health & Safety

Major Incidents

Major incidents are those occurrences involving fire, explosion, large spills or releases which could harm the environment or be immediately dangerous to life or health.

In this situation call 911 and then call Environmental Health and Safety at (4-4036).