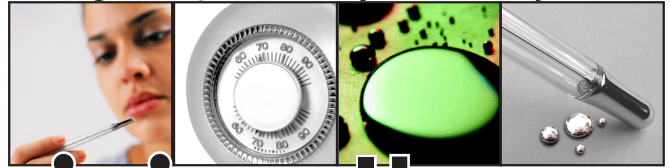









# Common Mercury-Containing Items



The following table is a list of common mercury-containing items that break in homes, business and medical settings. The table lists the source of mercury, the amount and spill risk, as well as suggested action for cleanup.

Common Items	Source of Mercury	Amount (Weight) of Mercury	Spill Risk (No risk if intact)	Need for Cleanup Contractor?
<b>CFL bulbs</b> 	Sealed in the bulb	Cannot be seen (about 4 milligrams); 100 times less than a thermometer	Very small if bulb is broken.	<b>No.</b> The amount is very small. For cleanup information, see the MDCH fact sheet "CFLs and Mercury".
<b>Thermometers</b> 	Sealed in the bulb of glass thermometers	Much less than 1/8 teaspoon (about 500 milligrams)	Small if mercury is not tracked around.	<b>Possibly.</b> If mercury is tracked around, the small amount of mercury becomes more difficult and this can turn into a large spill. Call your local health department or MDCH for guidance. You may also want to call a cleanup contractor.
<b>Thermostats</b> 	Sealed in a glass bulb in the tilt switch	Less than 1/8 teaspoon (about 3,000 milligrams)	Small if tilt switch is damaged or broken.	<b>Possibly.</b> If mercury is tracked around, a small spill becomes more difficult and this can turn into a large cleanup. Call your local health department or MDCH for guidance. You may also want to call a cleanup contractor.
<b>Barometers*</b> 	In the dial or glass tube	At least 1/2 tablespoon (more than 1/4 pound)	Large if dial, wheel, or glass tube is damaged.	<b>Yes.</b> This is a large spill and it can be tracked around. It is best to follow the MDCH "Mercury Spill Quick Guide" and isolate the area until you have talked with your local health department or MDCH and a cleanup contractor has arrived.
<b>Sphygmomanometer (Blood pressure unit)*</b> 	Sealed in the glass tube	About 1 tablespoon (about 1/2 pound)	Large if glass tube is broken.	<b>Yes.</b> This is a large spill and can be tracked around. Sphygmomanometers are usually found in doctors' offices and hospitals, where there are sensitive populations, making cleanup more difficult. It is best to follow the MDCH "Mercury Spill Quick Guide" and isolate the area until you have talked with your local health department or MDCH and a cleanup contractor has arrived.
<b>Clocks*</b> 	As weights in the pendulum	More than 2 tablespoons (several pounds)	Large if pendulum is damaged.	<b>Yes.</b> This is a large spill and it can be tracked around. It is best to follow the MDCH "Mercury Spill Quick Guide" and isolate the area until you have talked with your local health department or MDCH and a cleanup contractor has arrived.
<b>Free-flowing Mercury*</b> 	A container or jar	Varies	Large if container is broken or open.	<b>Yes.</b> If there is unknown amount of mercury spilled, treat it like a large spill. Containers and jars have the potential to have a lot of mercury in them, so you should follow the MDCH "Mercury Spill Quick Guide" and isolate the area until you have talked with your local health department or MDCH and a cleanup contractor has arrived.

\*The release of a large quantity of mercury, such as a barometer, sphygmomanometer, or clock, or an unknown quantity should be reported to the National Response Center at [www.nrc.uscg.mil/nrchp.html](http://www.nrc.uscg.mil/nrchp.html).