

Get Rid of Mercury Safely



Finding Mercury in your Home

Hopefully, with the help of the Michigan Department of Community Health's fact sheet, "Is Your Home Mercury Free?" you have found all the items in your home that may have mercury in them.

It's now time to pack these items up and get them out of your house before they break or spill. Vapors from spilled mercury can remain in the air for a long time if not cleaned up properly. The vapors may harm your health and the health of your family.

It's better to take a few minutes now to get rid of mercury in your home and prevent a spill later.

Make a Mercury Carrier

Before heading off to a recycling site, you will want to make a Mercury Carrier to protect the mercury-containing item from breaking during transport.

There are many ways that you can make a Mercury Carrier. The most important thing is that you have a double layer of protection in case the item breaks.

Some things that you can use to make a Mercury Carrier are:



paper towel



newspaper



zip-top bags



small storage container



empty paint can



coffee can
(plastic or metal)

How to pack your Mercury Carrier

1. Bring your Mercury Carrier to your mercury-containing items.
2. Wrap each item in paper towel or newspaper to protect it from breaking.
3. Choose a container that the item with mercury will fit in. Place the wrapped mercury item inside the container and seal it.
4. Place that container in a SECOND container, like an empty paint can or coffee can. Seal the second container tightly.
5. Label your Mercury Carrier with the mercury containing item and the date.



Find a Recycling Site Near You

Many Clean Sweep sites and community household hazardous waste collection centers accept mercury-containing items from the public at no charge. When transporting your items to a recycling site, make sure you treat items with care so they do not break in your house or car.

There are also occasional thermometer exchanges where you can turn in your old mercury thermometer and get a replacement non-mercury thermometer for free.

To find a collection site near you, visit www.michigan.gov/deqmercury, www.michigan.gov/cleansweep, www.Earth911.org, or www.michiganenergyoptions.org.



- Recycling sites are not able to take cleanup debris. To find out how to dispose of cleanup debris, call the Environmental Assistance hotline at **1-800-662-9278**.

Want to learn more?

For Public Health Questions

Contact the Michigan Department of Community Health (MDCH) at **1-800-648-6942** or visit www.michigan.gov/mercury for these other fact sheets:

- Mercury Spill Quick Guide
- How to Clean Up Spilled Mercury
- Mercury & Your Family's Health
- Mercury Spills & Your Pet
- Is Your Home Mercury Free?
- Get Rid of Mercury Safely
- Mercury and Electrical Work
- Mercury and HVAC Systems
- Mercury and Plumbing
- Mercury and Renovation/Energy Upgrade

Michigan Department
of Community Health



For Mercury Pollution Prevention and Recycling Questions

Contact the Michigan Department of Environmental Quality (MDEQ) at **1-800-662-9278** or visit www.michigan.gov/deqmercury.

