

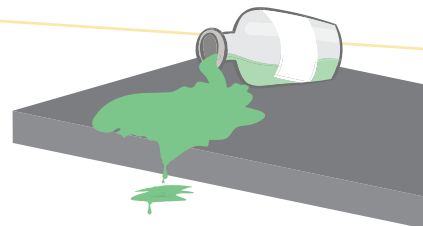
USC Office of Environmental Health & Safety

CHEMICAL SPILL

RESPONSE GUIDE

Spill Characteristics

How a chemical spill is handled is dependent on its size, associated hazards of the released material(s), available resources, and the experience/competence level of the responder.



Major Spill

- Beyond capabilities and resources to clean
- Large amount (volume)
- Highly-hazardous substance
- Emits harmful/toxic vapor, gas, or dust
- High risk for responder while cleaning up
- Spill entering public areas, floor drains, or inaccessible locations (e.g., under cabinets)

Minor Spill

- Within capabilities and resources to clean
- Small amount (volume)
- No inhalation hazard (i.e., no toxic vapor or toxic dust)
- Does NOT require respiratory protection
- Not highly hazardous by skin contact
- Spill in easily accessible area or confined area (e.g., secondary containment or fume hood)

What to do...

DO NOT attempt to clean a spill beyond your level of comfort or expertise.

When in doubt, call DPS. For MINOR spills, ensure that clean-up materials are compatible with spilled materials and follow the protocols provided by USC EH&S, Safety Data Sheet (SDS), or by the manufacturer of a professional spill kit.

Chemical Spill Notification Procedure

1. **Alert** all nearby persons
2. **Secure the area.** DO NOT attempt to clean unless you are properly trained, equipped, and you understand the chemical/hazardous characteristics of the spilled material
3. **Evacuate** the area, if necessary
4. **Call DPS at (213) 740-4321** to notify of any spill, even if the spill was cleaned

Resources

¹Chemical Spill Kit Guide Sheet:
<http://tiny.cc/usc-ehs-chmSplkit-gs>

²Hazardous Material Spill Clean-Up Guide Sheet:
<http://tiny.cc/usc-hazspl-cln-gs>

³Chemical Waste Disposal Guide Sheet:
<http://tiny.cc/usc-chm-dsp-gs>

⁴Emergency Notification and Incident Reporting:
<http://tiny.cc/USC-emer-notification>