

Transporting Chemicals Within Buildings

Issue

Chemicals may be spilled in transportation between labs or in transit from a central storeroom. Spill cleanup resources may not be readily available in the area and the ventilation system may distribute nuisance or hazardous vapours from a chemical spill to non-lab areas of the building such as offices or classrooms.

Steps to Resolution

Anyone transporting hazardous¹ chemicals within buildings must do so within secondary containment. This can be a cart with built in secondary containment, a secondary container on a cart or a bottle carrier. Secondary containers and bottle carriers can be bought from safety suppliers, departmental/faculty Stores, or can be polyethylene containers for kitchen use, such as Tupperware™.

Note that the original packaging is already a secondary container, so the easiest way to transport chemicals is in their original as-delivered containers.

The use of secondary containment should limit the extent of a spill, while at the same time the more limited spill will require appropriate cleanup with the below as a guideline.

In the event of a Spill

[The UofT Spill Reporting procedures](#) state the following steps are to be taken.

Departments should have pre-established emergency procedures for cleanup and reporting of chemical spills and have the appropriate protective clothing and spill cleanup kits readily available.

In the event of a spill, the Department should do the following:

1. Assess the situation. Individuals should not put themselves or others at risk when performing a spill cleanup.
2. Stop the spill, contain it, and initiate steps to ameliorate any effect on the environment.
3. Call the University's Environmental Protection Services (Hazardous Materials) at **416.978.7000** for spills meeting any of the following criteria:
 - large spills (e.g. several litres)

-
1. Includes - flammable, reactive, corrosive, toxic, irritants, allergens and any others deemed hazardous under the Hazardous Products Act



- spills involving quantities of flammable materials which cannot be safely handled
 - spills involving highly toxic materials
 - spills occurring outside a building
 - spills inside a building in which material (gaseous, solid or liquid) is leaking or may leak outside
 - fires involving chemicals
 - any other spill which the individual does not feel capable of handling safely
4. Isolate the area until either the spill has been cleaned up locally, or until the emergency personnel arrive.
 5. [Fill out an Accident/Incident Report form.](#)

After hours call **Campus Police at 416.978.2222 (St. George Campus)**. For the **Mississauga Campus call 905.828.5200**, and for the **Scarborough Campus call 416.978.2222**. The Campus Police will notify the appropriate individuals according to the established emergency procedures.

For more information please contact ehs.office@utoronto.ca