



*This document is under review, if you have any input, please email safety@unsw.edu.au.

The purpose of this guideline is to ensure that hazardous chemical spills are dealt with appropriately to protect persons and the environment.

4.1.	2
4.2.	3
7.1.	4
7.2.	4

respond quickly and safely to chemical spills. Determining the quantity and type of materials required for spills management should comprise a risk management approach including review of spill procedures, Safety Data Sheets, emergency response information and consultation with experts. The clean-up of a chemical spill should only be done by knowledgeable and experienced personnel.

Spills will be either: minor; moderate; or major, depending on the volume and nature of the chemical spilt.

be able to

- 6) Control the source of the spill if possible (e.g., picking up a container that has fallen over or turning off a tap on a container).
- 7) Contain free liquids by creating a dam or boom around the spill, absorbing it if appropriate. Prevent spill entry into drains.
- 8) Neutralize acids/alkalis, if applicable (see section 3.5).
- 9) Place all spill residues in an appropriate container.
- 10) Fill in the chemical waste disposal form so that the chemical waste can be collected.
- 11) Decontaminate the affected area using an appropriate material (e.g., decon 90 may be suitable but check the SDS of the spilt material first).
- 12) Decontaminate any affected equipment.
- 13) Assess the area to ensure proper decontamination has taken place.
- 14) Examine walkways, floors, stairs equipment etc. for other hazards or damage.
- 15) Report the spill
- 16) Conduct appropriate investigation and follow up action (see 3.8).

This is the basic procedure for dealing with a moderate spill:

- 1) Clear the area - check that others working close by are informed.
- 2) Where possible, have at least 2 trained workers to handle the spill.
- 3) Each laboratory should have spill kit located outside the laboratory where the clean-up team can meet and prepare for the clean-up. See basic list of contents in 5.0 which should be located outside the laboratory.
- 4) Use the proper personal protective clothing and equipment (PPCE) (as outlined in section 6.
- 5)

Personal Protective Clothing and Equipment (see section 6).

It is essential that the spill clean-up equipment be appropriate for the chemical spill. The Safety Data Sheet should be consulted prior to dealing with the spill and during decisions on spill kit contents, particularly the following information:

- hazards of the chemical including acute and chronic health effects.
- reactivity information (i.e., what the chemical could react with).
- safety precautions during

- 2) Report and investigate the cause of the spill using the online Hazard and Incident reporting system in myUNSW.
- 3) Restock all spill control supplies.
- 4) Repair or refill all damaged or used equipment.
- 5) Re-open the area when it has been cleared and is safe to resume operations.

AS 2243.3.2: Safety in Laboratories – Chemical Aspects
[Work Health and Safety Act 2011 \(nsw.gov.au\)](http://www.nsw.gov.au/work-health-and-safety)