

## SPECIFICATION FOR DRIZIT® MERCURY SPILL KIT



	0276/M
<b>Size</b>	23 x 20 x 9 cm
<b>Container Colour</b>	Red
<b>Pack Quantity</b>	1
<b>Pack Wt</b>	0.8 kg
<b>Sorbency (pack)</b>	0.3 litres minimum

**Sorbency:** Based on theoretical calculations the 55g alloy wool will hold about 20g mercury, and the 120g of powders (sulphur plus calcium hydroxide) probably another 20g. However, this refers to the binding power of the chemicals in the kit. Most mercury spillages consist of a larger body of mercury that can be mechanically picked up using the liquid handling tools (scoop, brush, pipette, and bottle). The harder-to-collect 'splatter' of globules that represent the greater risk to health in almost all situations will be quite small and will easily be handled by the chemical contents of the kit.

In practice the spillage kit can be used on at least 5 occasions for separate spills.

The waste mercury in its waste bottle must still be considered as hazardous waste, even in the presence of the alloy wool and sulphur/calcium hydroxide powders.

However, on contaminated surfaces such as floors, using the decontamination powders as a slurry does effectively neutralise any traces of the spilt mercury in situ. This is why COSHH recommends this particular procedure.

**Container:** Red plastic case

**Contents:**

- Scoop
- Brush
- Syringe
- 2 pair gloves
- Filter Mask
- Empty 300ml bottle (labeled – Mercury waste)
- Bottle containing approx 70g Sulphur
- Bottle containing approx 50g Calcium Hydroxide
- Approx 55g Alloy Wool

**Shelf Life:** 3 Years

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**Instructions for Use:** It is important that a suitable and sufficient Risk Assessment is carried out on each incident. The respiratory protection supplied with the kit is for the kit chemicals.

### **Technique 1 – Mercury Spillage on a Hard Surface**

*Never use a vacuum cleaner or aspirator to pick up mercury, or dispose of in the 'sharps' bin.*

Try to confine the affected area to a minimum, in particular, avoid getting mercury on the floor. Put on appropriate protective clothing, gloves (kit) and mask (kit) as a minimum. Increase ventilation by opening a window. Using the scoop (kit), move the globules of mercury together to form on large pool. Pick up as much of this as possible using the syringe (kit) and place in the waste container (kit). Return syringe to the spillage kit. Mix equal amount of Sulphur (kit) and calcium hydroxide (kit) and spread onto the spillage area. (You may wish to mix the powders to a paste with a little water; this is also effective but can be harder to use in some situations). Keep working the powder or paste on to the spillage using the brush (kit) or scoop, for two or three minutes. Then brush the powder or paste into the scoop and transfer to the waste container, wiping any residual chemicals from the brush and/or scoop on the lip of the waste container, cap it tightly. Replace in spillage kit and store in a well-ventilated place, away from sources of heat.

### **Technique 2 – Mercury Spillage on a Fabric Surface**

*e.g. carpet or bedding. Can also be used instead of technique 1 on hard surfaces.*

Skin contact with mercury should be avoided – if bedding is involved, move patient away if possible. Put on personal protective equipment, at least gloves (kit) and increase ventilation. Recover as much of the loose mercury as possible with the syringe (kit) and place in the waste container (kit). Return syringe to the kit. Break off a piece of the alloy wool (kit) to form a sphere about 1" (2.5cm) diameter. Holding the piece of alloy wool between finger and thumb press it firmly against a hard surface to flatten one side. Place with flattened area gently on top of the loose mercury and leave for 20 seconds or so. The mercury will adhere to the wool and be picked up. Move alloy wool pad to the next area and repeat until all mercury has been picked up. Use more alloy wool buds if necessary. Place contaminated alloy wool in the waste container. Bedding should be sent for laundering in sealed, labelled plastic bags; carpets should be professionally decontaminated as soon as possible.

### **Further Decontamination for Hard Surfaces Only**

To a third of a bucket of warm water add a drop of washing up liquid and two heaped teaspoons each of sulphur and calcium hydroxide, stir to make a suspension. Use a mop to apply and remove this to and from the surface. Clean with a proprietary cleaner afterwards. This can be repeated as often as necessary, say every month or so.

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- Disposal:** The kit contains a plastic screw-top jar for disposing of the waste.  
It is worth noting that after one use of the kit, this jar will contain materials which are both hazardous waste and hazardous to health; the end-user should consider whether it is acceptable to keep that waste until another mercury spill occurs, or whether to purchase another kit.  
Waste must be disposed of via an authorised waste disposal contractor or metal reclaiming company, in accordance with local and national regulations.
- Safety Data:** Refer to our Safety Data Sheet.  
Further technical advice is available if required.
- Note:** All weights, dimensions, and other figures quoted are approximate.

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