

Corrosive Chemical Spill Response

A corrosive chemical is defined as a highly reactive substance that can damage or destroy living tissue. Liquid corrosive chemicals are acids with a pH of 4 or lower or bases with a pH of 9 or higher.

Where a hazard is believed to present an immediate danger, contact Campus Safety Services at (613) 520-2600 ext. 4444 IMMEDIATELY.

Minor Spill Clean-up Procedures:

If you are unsure whether the spill should be considered a “minor” release, treat as a major spill and follow major spill procedures below. If the spill can be cleaned up safely, proceed with the following:

- Gather **pre-packaged spill kit**.
- Don the appropriate **personal protective equipment**.
- If there are drains in the area, use a boom, sock, or other material to prevent the hazardous material from reaching the drain.
- To **contain the spill**, gently pour **appropriate neutralizing agent** (e.g. sodium bicarbonate, citric acid, etc.) over the spill, working from the outside in. Neutralizing agents should be added **cautiously and slowly** as the reaction generates heat. If this heat is generated too rapidly **splattering can occur**.
- Avoid leaning over the spill when applying the neutralizer to **prevent breathing in any vapours**.
- Allow **several minutes for the neutralizer to take effect**, and then **test** a representative area with pH paper.
- When the spill has been **neutralized, (pH 6-9)**, use absorbent pads or paper towels to **wipe up** the spilled material.
- Place all **neutralized waste into a plastic bag** and dispose of in the regular waste stream.
- Remove PPE and thoroughly **wash hands**.
- Use soap and water to wash the affected area and remove any minor residues that may be left.
- **Report** the incident to your supervisor and through [CU WorkSafe](#)
- **Replenish** your spill kit supplies.

Major Spill Clean-up Procedures:

1. **Evacuate** immediate area. In the event of a chemical exposure, administer first aid. Call campus safety at **(613) 520-2600 ext. 4444**. Identify yourself, nature of the incident (e.g. fire, explosion, chemical spill, gas leak), location of the incident (building and room number), any injuries present, when and how the incident occurred.
2. **Wait** in a safe area for the response team. Your knowledge of the area will assist the team.
3. Do not allow unauthorized personnel to enter the contaminated area.
4. **Report** the incident to your supervisor and through [CU WorkSafe](#)

Reporting

All workplace injuries, illnesses, and incidents must be reported immediately to the workplace supervisor and through [CU WorkSafe](#). This includes those affecting students, visitors, and contractors at Carleton University.