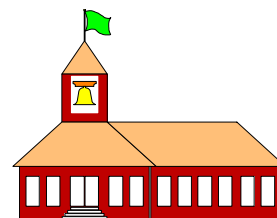




Mercury in Schools

Mercury can be found in schools in many places. Liquid mercury may be used in science labs and experiments. Science classes may use thermometers, barometers or other devices that contain mercury. School nurses may have mercury thermometers or blood pressure gauges. Thermostats and light switches in the building may contain mercury. Fluorescent light bulbs are commonly used in schools. These bulbs contain mercury.



Children may also bring mercury to school. Necklaces that contained a small amount of mercury inside glass were once sold. Mercury maze games used to be sold. Home science kits may have mercury in them. Some families may still have these items. Students may bring these items to school.

Parent Tips for Mercury Safe Schools

- Talk with teachers and school principals about mercury.
- Talk to your child about staying away from thermometers, thermostats, light bulbs and other mercury devices.
- Find out if liquid mercury is stored in a lab or classroom.
- Ask if the school has a mercury spill kit.
- Ask how mercury spills are to be reported.
- Work with your school to do a mercury audit.
- Create labels to place on thermostats and other devices that contain mercury.
- Volunteer to help with a mercury-free school campaign.
- Do not allow your students to take any mercury items to school.



Reference:

Brachman, Steve, et.al. "Mercury in Schools and the Community: A National Issue", University of Wisconsin-Extension, March 2002.

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