



## Reacting to a Hazardous Spill in Your Home



- ① If the spill is too big for one person to control and clean up, call 911 or your local emergency number as soon as possible.
- ② Keep the spill from spreading. Set up barriers and ventilate the area if it is inside a home or garage. Keep children and pets away.
- ③ Check label for instructions about contact.
  - Wear rubber gloves and boots.
  - Wear long pants and a long sleeved shirt to avoid skin contact.
- ④ Clean up as soon as possible.
  - Don't flush the spill away with a hose.
  - Sweep or scoop the solids and the original container into a plastic bag, also scoop up any contaminated dirt or gravel. Seal the plastic bag.
  - Scrub the area with detergent or water.
  - For very toxic liquid substances such as pesticides, cover again with absorbent materials and sweep or scoop up the absorbent into a plastic bag.
  - Scrub repeatedly until traces of the chemical are gone.
- ⑤ Place all cloths in a used plastic bag. Double bag, seal and label.
- ⑥ Completely rinse the area and any tools used.
- ⑦ Dispose of contaminated materials in an appropriate manner according to directions on the label.
- ⑧ If the spill is a very toxic product, decontaminate clothing and equipment to avoid contaminating your home and others. Follow the same decontamination procedures you would for a toxic spill outside the home.

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Adapted by UF/IFAS from:  
*Extension Agent's Handbook for Emergency Preparation and Response*  
(Texas Agricultural Extension Services and the Hazard Reduction and Recovery Center)