Spill kits should contain:

- Gloves (nitrile, at least; foil barrier laminate better)
- Tyvek® coverall
- Goggles
- Temporary storage container for spill
- Sorbent pads and/or socks
- Loose absorbent (SilkWit®, vermiculite)
- Sweeping compound
- Warning sign or caution tape
- Chalk (for marking spill area on floor)
- Dust pan or small shovel (plastic preferable)
- Small broom
- Permanent marker (for marking spill container after clean-up)

For additional copies or information contact the CALS OEH offices or go to http://oeh.cals.cornell.edu

Sorbent Categories

Universal sorbents: designed to absorb any liquid; they will absorb aggressive liquids such as acids and bases as well as non-aggressive liquids and solvents, such as inorganic acid and bases, water-based fluids, gasoline, and alcohol; made of polypropylene or expanded silicate materials.

Petroleum sorbents ("oil-only sorbents"): designed for absorption of oil and/or petroleum-based liquids; these sorbents are hydrophobic (will not absorb water or water-based liquids); can be used in maintenance applications for hydraulic and engine oil cleanup; made of polypropylene or treated cellulose.

Maintenance sorbents: absorb non-aggressive liquids commonly found in manufacturing and maintenance operations (coolants, lubricants, oils, cutting fluids); will pick up water-based as well as oil-based fluids; made of recycled materials, such as cotton, wool, cellulose or corn cob; can also be made of polypropylene or any combination of the materials listed.

If a spill already occurs:

Pad and rolls: flat sorbent sheets of various lengths can be used to line shelves, catch leaks under machinery and clean up spills.

Loose sorbents: sorbent media that is not contained in any pillow or mesh; typically used on small spills.

For all other chemicals:

Universal sorbents should be used to control and contain spills.

Sorbent capacity: the amount of weight the sorbent will absorb in relation to itself (e.g., absorbs 12 times its own weight) or the liquid capacity of the sorbent (e.g., absorbs 8 gallons). Because all liquids don’t weigh the same per gallon, the weight capacity of the sorbent actually varies from liquid to liquid. A more accurate way to assess the sorbent capacity is by its liquid capacity.

For incidental releases ONLY:

Consult the appropriate MSDS and label with acid handling and neutralization procedures. When in doubt about the size of a spill, call for emergency assistance:

- the spill is too large for a local clean up,
- the spill threatens the health and safety of anyone,
- the spill migrates off-site, and/or
- requires emergency response regardless of the size.

ALWAYS PUT SAFETY FIRST!

When in doubt about the size of a spill:

- contain and clean up
- call for emergency assistance
- consult the appropriate MSDS and label
- wear the appropriate personal protective equipment
- use care and secondary containment whenever possible
- check containers for problems regularly, and fix them accordingly
- recover as much product as possible in a reusable container
- store and use as intended
- recover the rest of the spill
- let the Environmental Health & Safety office know
- report the spill to the facility manager
- notify the Environmental Health and Safety department
- keep employees in the immediate vicinity away from the spill
- if the spill threatens the health and safety of anyone, evacuate personnel from the immediate area of the spill
- control the spill. Do not endanger yourself. To the extent possible, shut off the source and block the flow
- report the spill to the facility manager
- notify the Environmental Health and Safety department
- keep employees in the immediate vicinity away from the spill
- if the spill threatens the health and safety of anyone, evacuate personnel from the immediate area of the spill
- control the spill. Do not endanger yourself. To the extent possible, shut off the source and block the flow

Contact:

Environmental Health and Safety (EH&S)
(607) 255-8200

CALS Occupational & Environmental Health (OEH)
(607) 255-0485
(607) 255-2557

NYSDEC Spill Notification Hotline
800-454-7362

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