



## Formaldehyde/Formalin Minor Spill (less than 1 gallon) Clean Up Procedures

Only trained staff may clean up a minor spill.

1. **Notify co-workers** of spill and **restrict access** to the affected area during clean up.
2. **Retrieve formalin spill kit** that includes Spill-X-FP, personal protective equipment, absorbent pads, brush and scoop, scraper, waste label, and waste disposal bag.
3. Wear **personal protective equipment** - nitrile gloves, chemical splash goggles, and gown (or lab coat/apron).
4. **Add Spill-X-FP** (1.85 lbs./0.84 kg per bottle) to spill as follows:

Size of Spill	Quantity of Spill X-FP
small specimen jar of 10% formalin (3.7% formaldehyde)	one-quarter of a bottle
1 gallon of 10% formalin (3.7% formaldehyde)	one-half of a bottle
2.5-gallon container/cube of 10% formalin (3.7% formaldehyde)	1 and one-quarter bottles



5. **Encircle the spill** at its perimeter with Spill-X-FP, **then apply inward**. **Cover spill evenly** with Spill-X-FP. **Avoid splashing**.
6. Using scraper, **mix Spill-X-FP into spill**. Warning: Do not handle treated material until polymerization is complete and residue has cooled.
7. **Polymerization should occur within 15 minutes** for formaldehyde solution strengths of less than 15%, but solidification may not occur.
8. Place waste material in waste disposal bag and attach orange Hazardous Waste label to bag. **Call Environmental Health & Safety (EH&S)** at 4-6783 for waste pick-up.

**Reorder Spill-X-FP** through Lawson (# 41858). For a **replacement kit**, contact EH&S at 4-6783.

**For a major spill or if you need assistance:**

**In University Hospital: Call University Police, 911 (cell phone: 631-632-3333)**

**In Hospital Off Site Facilities: Call local police, 911.**