

Mercury

Where it can be Found

ATOMIC SYMBOL: Mercury Hg

In the Home:

Wiring Devices and Switches -
Old Paint - Fluorescent Lights -
Thermometers - Pressure Gauges -
Batteries - Old Dental Fillings

Instead, use products that do not contain mercury. Try tooth-colored resin for dental work, digital thermometers, zinc air or mercury-free button batteries.

In Your Food:

Swordfish - Tilefish - Shark
King Mackerel



In Your Air:

Coal Combustion - Gasoline
Combustion - Metal Processing -
Waste Incineration

Reduce mercury pollution by conserving energy!



Dangers of Mercury

HEALTH PROBLEMS

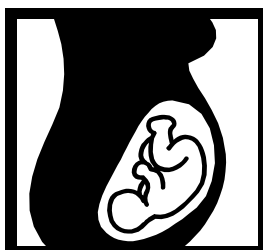
Even at low levels of exposure, mercury can cause health problems such as:

- Tremors
- Changes in Hearing and Vision
- Insomnia
- Weakness
- Headache
- Difficulty with Memory
- Irritability and Nervousness
- Rashes, Blistering or Peeling of Skin on the Hands and Feet



High levels of mercury vapor can produce serious brain or neurological damage

- Learning Disabilities
- Impaired Nervous System Development



The developing baby is particularly sensitive to mercury toxicity.

Clean-Up

SAFETY

Make sure that mercury is stored in an airtight container so it does not have a chance to spill or evaporate.



If there is a spill:

Remove everyone from the area.

Call a person that is properly trained to clean up the area.

NEVER use a vacuum cleaner to clean up mercury spills. A vacuum causes mercury to vaporize. Instead, use two stiff pieces of cardboard to push the beads of mercury together. Use an eyedropper to suction up the beads.

Place mercury inside a tightly-sealed bag or container for disposal as a **Hazardous Waste** in your local waste facility.

NEVER use household chemicals to clean up mercury spills. The combination can react violently and cause you harm.



For More Information:

Contact your *County Extension Service*

Ask for the Family and Consumer Sciences Extension Agent

Visit our website at www.gafamilies.com/housing