pill clean-up procedures for common (and specific) hazardous materials, bio agents, and radioisotopes are provided below. **Wear appropriate personal protective equipment before attempting any clean up.** Refer to the [Hazardous Waste Disposal Fact Sheet](http://adminopsnet.usc.edu) to select the appropriate waste container and for general information.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Symbol</th>
<th>Hazardous Material</th>
<th>Clean Up Procedure</th>
<th>PPE</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><img src="image.png" alt="Flammable/Combustible Liquids" /></td>
<td>Flammable/Combustible Liquids (e.g., diethyl ether, acetone, tetrahydrofuran, ethanol, petroleum ether, and pentane)</td>
<td>1. Remove ignition sources. 2. Absorb spill with vermiculite, kitty litter, or commercial absorbent (pillows, berms, etc.). 3. Collect absorbent with plastic brush and dust pan and deposit in a Ziploc bag or plastic container with lid. 4. Complete and apply a waste label to bag or container.</td>
<td>• Splash goggles  • Butyl or neoprene gloves  • Flame resistant lab coat or apron  • Closed-toe shoes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><img src="image.png" alt="Alkali Metals/Alkali Hydrides" /></td>
<td>Alkali Metals/Alkali Hydrides (e.g., sodium metal, sodium hydride, potassium metal, and potassium hydride)</td>
<td>1. Remove ignition sources. 2. Quench spill with dry chemical extinguishing medium (e.g., dry sand, Class D fire extinguisher) regardless whether it is aflame or not. 3. Sweep up treated spill with plastic brush and dust pan and deposit in a plastic container with lid. Add mineral oil to immerse the material. 4. Complete and apply a waste label to bag or container.</td>
<td>• Splash goggles  • Butyl, nitrile, or neoprene gloves  • Flame resistant - Nomex lab coat or apron  • Closed-toe shoes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><img src="image.png" alt="Corrosive Liquids" /></td>
<td>Corrosive Liquids (e.g., inorganic acids - sulfuric and nitric acid and caustic bases - sodium and potassium hydroxide solutions)</td>
<td>1. Neutralize acids/bases with materials such as sodium bisulfate (for alkalis), sodium carbonate or bicarbonate (for acids), or commercial neutralizer. 2. Check pH with test strips; final pH between 6 and 10. 3. Absorb spill with vermiculite, kitty litter, or commercial absorbent (pillows, berms, etc.). <strong>NOTE:</strong> Some commercial products combine neutralizers with absorbent material. 4. Collect absorbent with plastic brush and dust pan and deposit in a Ziploc bag or plastic container with lid. 5. Complete and apply a waste label to bag or container.</td>
<td>• Splash goggles (optional face shield)  • Neoprene or polyvinyl chloride (PVC) gloves  • Standard Cotton lab coat or apron  • Closed-toe shoes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><img src="image.png" alt="Corrosive: Perchloric Acid/Inorganic Perchlorates" /></td>
<td>Corrosive: Perchloric Acid/Inorganic Perchlorates</td>
<td>1. Dilute perchloric acid with water to a conc. of &lt; 5%. 2. Cover spill with sand or vermiculite (DO NOT use organic absorbents). 3. Repeat Steps 4 through 6 for Corrosive Liquids.</td>
<td>See Corrosive Liquids</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><img src="image.png" alt="Corrosive: Bromine" /></td>
<td>Corrosive: Bromine</td>
<td>1. Small spills: Cover small spills with sodium thiosulfate. 2. Repeat Steps 4 through 6 for Corrosive Liquids.</td>
<td>See Corrosive Liquids</td>
</tr>
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</table>
| ![Hazardous Material](image) | **Toxic Substances** (e.g., sodium azide, osmium tetroxide, potassium cyanide, and sodium cyanide) | 1. Collect spilled solid with plastic brush and dust pan and deposit in a Ziploc bag or plastic container with lid. Be careful not to create dust particulates.  
2. If spill is a toxic reagent, absorb spill with vermiculite, kitty litter, or commercial absorbent (pillows, berms, etc.). Repeat Step 1.  
3. Complete and apply a waste label to bag or container. | • Safety glasses  
• Neoprene or polyvinyl chloride (PVC) gloves  
• Standard Cotton lab coat or apron  
• Closed-toe shoes |
| ![Toxic: Mercury](image) | **Toxic: Mercury** | 1. Collect bulk mercury spill with a vacuum hand pump.  
2. Collect remaining droplets by using a mercury sponge, OR covering the droplets with mercury absorbent powder.  
3. Complete and apply a waste label to bag or container. | See Toxic Substances |
| ![Radiation](image) | **Toxic: Radioactive Materials (RAM)** (e.g., $^{125}\text{I}$, $^{128}\text{I}$, $^{32}\text{P}$, and $^{35}\text{S}$) | 1. Cover spill with absorbent paper or pad only. DO NOT wipe with circular motion. This will only spread radioactive contamination.  
2. Once spill is completely absorbed, push outermost disposable paper towels or pads toward center of spill.  
3. Collect towels/pads and place in a Ziploc bag or appropriate radioactive waste container. Dispose of all other contaminated materials in a similar manner (such as disposable gloves).  
4. Check area around spill with a survey meter and demarcate with radiation tape.  
5. Place thick wood or Plexiglas board over spill if needed.  
6. Use survey meter to check hands, shoes, and clothing for any radioactive contamination.  
7. Complete and apply a waste label to bag or container. | See Toxic Substances |
| ![Biohazard](image) | **Blood, Biohazardous Materials, or Other Potentially Infectious Materials (OPIM)** | 1. Pour liquid bleach into a spray applicator or apply directly to contaminated/spill area. Allow fifteen (15) to thirty (30) minutes for treatment.  
2. Clean spill with an absorbent pad.  
3. Place waste pads directly into an available biohazard red bag/container. Tie red bag with goose-neck wrapping technique if full. | • Safety glasses  
• Nitrile, PVC, or latex gloves  
• Standard Cotton or fluid resistant (barrier) lab coat  
• Closed-toe shoes |

- To remove hazardous waste from the lab, request a [hazardous waste pick-up](#) online.
- Contact EH&S for more information on proper waste management and disposal or requesting supplies: [hazmat@usc.edu](mailto:hazmat@usc.edu) or (213) 740-7215.
- For large hazardous materials spills, notify DPS immediately at (213) 740-4321.