What you should know about mercury. Protect your home and family.

Did you know?

- Mercury is a naturally occurring liquid metal
- In its gaseous state, mercury is colorless and odorless
- A broken thermometer is the most common exposure to mercury
- Mercury salts are used in skin-lightening creams, antiseptic creams and ointments
- Mercury is a toxic substance that is very harmful to humans
- 41 states, including California, have issued fish-consumption advisories due to mercury contamination
- Larger fish have higher concentrations of mercury than smaller fish

For more information about mercury, visit www.ddsd.org

If there’s a spill

All mercury spills, regardless of size, should be cleaned up immediately and carefully. If the amount spilled is more than two tablespoons, contact the National Response Center at 1-800-424-8802. If a spill is less than two tablespoons:

Do... keep all pets and children away from the immediate area
Do... wear rubber or latex gloves when cleaning up a spill
Do... use cardboard, a squeegee or an eyedropper to gather and draw up mercury
Do... properly ventilate the spill area (turn off heaters, and turn up the AC)
Do... put clean-up materials in a sealable container

Don’t... use a vacuum cleaner or a broom to clean up mercury
Don’t... pour mercury down the drain
Don’t... wash mercury-contaminated clothes in the washing machine
Don’t... walk around – your shoes could be covered with mercury

For more information about mercury, visit www.ddsd.org

Jointly Sponsored By:
- Delta Household Hazardous Waste Collection Facility
- 2550 Pittsburg-Antioch Highway, Antioch, CA 94509
- Open Friday and Saturday from 9:00 am - 2:00 pm. Call for holiday hours.
- North of Highway 4, on Arcey Lane, between Loveridge and Somersville Roads.
- Protecting your family, your health and our water.
- Partially funded by a Grant from the California Integrated Waste Management Board.

Communities served: Antioch, Bay Point, Bethel Island, Brentwood, Byron, Discovery Bay, Knightsen, Oakley & Pittsburg

DELTA DIABLO SANITATION DISTRICT

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The dangers of mercury

Mercury is a highly toxic metal that is harmful to both humans and wildlife. Exposure to even small amounts of mercury, over a long period of time, may cause negative health effects including damage to the brain, kidneys and lungs. Unborn and young children are especially susceptible to mercury exposure because their nervous systems are still developing. Whether it is absorbed through the skin, inhaled or ingested, exposure to mercury should be taken very seriously.

Brief contact with high levels of mercury may cause immediate health effects:

- Nausea
- Abdominal cramps
- Diarrhea
- Eye irritation
- Loss of appetite
- Fatigue
- Insomnia
- Weight loss
- Skin rashes
- Muscle tremors

Proper storage and disposal

Proper storage and disposal of mercury-containing products will greatly reduce the risk of exposure in your home. Store products containing mercury in a safe place to prevent breakage. Carefully handle and dispose of those products by taking them to a household hazardous waste facility near you. East County residents can bring mercury and other household hazardous wastes to the Delta Household Hazardous Waste (HHW) Collection Facility for free and proper disposal.

Watch for community events in your area that sponsor free disposal of mercury-containing products or other household hazardous wastes. The Delta HHW Collection Facility also accepts the following items for free disposal:

- Household cleaners
- Pesticides
- Paints
- Pharmaceuticals

For more information visit www.ddsd.org or call 925-756-1990.