

**HACKETTSTOWN REGIONAL MEDICAL CENTER  
LABORATORY POLICY MANUAL  
XYLENE/ALCOHOL SPILL PROCEDURE**

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**Cross Referenced:**  
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**Origin:** General Lab  
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**PRINCIPLE:** Xylene and alcohols are flammables and considered hazardous in both the liquid and vapor state. Appropriate action must be taken quickly in the event of a spill to minimize employee exposure and to contain and remove the spill.

**PROCEDURE:**

1. Evacuate personnel in the area. Restrict persons not wearing protective equipment from the area until clean up is complete.
2. Don protective gear – shielded mask, gown and gloves.
3. Sprinkle the spill with SPILL-X-S\* **located in the Spill Control Kit in the Safety Cabinet in Specimen Processing** and let it be absorbed 5-10 minutes.
4. Remove all ignition sources. Do not turn on/off anything that may emit a spark. Xylene vapors may travel to a source of ignition and flash back.
5. Close doors to contain vapors.
6. Call Environmental Services to containerize all absorbent material in a double plastic bag.
7. Seal and label “Hazardous Waste.”
8. Complete Incident Report and submit to Manager.
9. Report will be sent to Risk Management and Safety Committee.

\* The Material Safety Data Sheet for this product is located in the MSDS binder on the shelf opposite the Chemistry Department