

Caldwell, Dwayne

From: Clark, Ronald
Sent: Wednesday, June 12, 2024 11:55 AM
To: williams31200@gmail.com
Subject: Mercury spill report
Attachments: 06_12_24 Grant Co Mercury 2832.pdf

Ms. Williams,

Attached is our report regarding the mercury spill in your garage. If you have any questions feel free to reach out to me.

Ron

RONALD D. CLARK
Industrial Hygienist

*Indoor Air Section, Environmental Health Division
Indiana Department of Health
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Eric J. Holcomb
Governor

Lindsay M. Weaver, MD, FACEP
State Health Commissioner

June 12, 2024

99 RDC 2832
Destiny Williams
4418 N Grand Drive
Marion, IN 46952

Dear Ms. Williams:

The purpose of this letter is to report the result of our air quality evaluation for mercury vapor at your home on June 11th. You stated that a bottle containing mercury had broken on the floor of the attached garage. When we arrive the garage door was open.

Measurements for mercury vapor were taken in several areas of the home prior to entering the garage. A Lumex mercury vapor meter with a detection limit of 0.1ug/m³ (micrograms per cubic meter of air) was used for these measurements. Mercury vapor is heavier than air so measurements are taken at the floor and if appropriate, the breathing zone. When small children may be in the home, waist level is used for the breathing zone measurements, otherwise breathing zone measurements are taken around 5 feet above the floor.

The Environmental Protection Agency along with the American Toxic Substances Disease Registry recommends a residential action level of 1.0 ug/m³ in the breathing zone, and the OSHA workplace eight-hour permissible exposure level for mercury is 100 ug/m³.

Location	Airborne Mercury concentration in ug/ m ³
Front Entry	1.2 BZ and FL
Children's bedroom	1.2 BZ and FL
Family room	1.4 BZ and FL
Shoes near front entrance	1.2 – the same as the rest of the room so the shoes were not contaminated
Kitchen	1.4 BZ and FL
Brown rug at entrance to garage	2.8 FL
Garage at kitchen entrance	0.2 BZ and FL
Garage back wall by storage boxes	0.4 FL
Garage spill area	2.0 – 3.5 FL 1.0 – 1.5 BZ

NOTE: BZ = breathing zone, FL = floor level

To **promote**, **protect**, and **improve** the health and safety of all Hoosiers.



All our measurements for mercury vapor in the home were slightly above EPA's action level for residences. We feel that there was some mercury tracked onto the brown rug by the garage door. We recommended that the rug be bagged and removed then the windows opened to air out the living space.

Additional cleanup is recommended for the garage. We would expect to see higher airborne concentrations of mercury in the garage if the doors are closed and recommend keeping the garage open or using fans in windows to exhaust air as often as possible until the cleanup is complete. We would not expect the items in the boxes and tubs sitting on the floor to be contaminated due to the nature of the spill, but the exterior of the tubs and boxes may have particles of mercury on them and should be handled carefully to avoid spreading the mercury.

Individuals experiencing any health problems should seek medical advice from a physician.

If you have questions, I can be reached at 317.682.9033.

Sincerely,

RON CLARK, INDUSTRIAL HYGIENIST
INDOOR AIR SECTION, ENVIRONMENTAL PUBLIC HEALTH