



Express Education

Mercury Best Management Practices

The toxic effects of mercury on humans and nature are of great concern. The proper use and disposal of mercury is necessary to protect the public and wildlife.

All schools are encouraged to implement Best Management Practices (BMPs) as outlined in the mercury section of Wisconsin's Green and Healthy Schools Program.

Wisconsin Green and Healthy School's program is a web-based, voluntary program available to all public and private elementary, middle, and high schools across Wisconsin. As part of the program, schools must include mercury issues in their curriculums, and they must work to become mercury-free. Mercury-free is defined as not having elemental mercury or mercury-containing devices on school grounds.

Currently, 77 schools have taken steps to becoming Green and Healthy Schools.

For more details on this program please go to **the following website:**

<http://www.dnr.state.wi.us/org/caer/ce/greenschools/>



In general, the BMPs include the following information:

- Inventory or Assessment of Hg
- Phase out of mercury containing products
- Mercury spill prevention

The following diagram is a quick view of common Mercury-containing items found in schools and their alternatives.

Items that contain Hg	Alternative Products
Thermometers Found in: Lab & Nurse's Office	Use alcohol, other non-mercury liquid, or digital
Barometers Found in: Lab	Aneroid or digital barometers
Bulk Liquid Mercury Found in: Lab	Video tape of liquid mercury and its properties
Lab Chemicals Found in: Lab	Substitute with mercury-free chemicals
Sphygmomanometer Found in: Nurse's Office	Aneroid and digital sphygmomanometers

Brought to you by your friends at

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