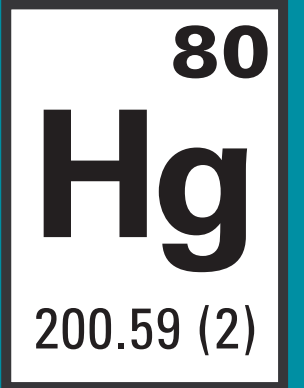


Mercury Can Be Harmful



Rachel & Eric find out glass thermometers are delicate instruments that break easily if dropped.

The vapors travel outside where they combine with moisture particles in the air.

When it rains, this mercury travels with the precipitation into local waterways.

Later, the fish from the contaminated river are caught and consumed by people, which can be harmful.

When Rachel & Eric's mercury thermometer breaks, some mercury enters the sewer system and mercury vapors are released into the air.

The mercury travels through the sewer to the wastewater treatment plant.

Not all mercury is removed by the wastewater treatment plant and the rest enters the local waterways.

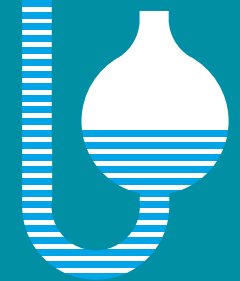
Mercury in the waterways gets converted to methylmercury by bacteria. Methylmercury builds up in the tissue of fish and wildlife as it moves up the food chain.

Besides thermometers, here are a few other items that commonly contain mercury. Are any of them around your school?

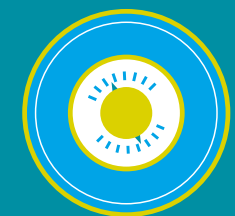


LABORATORY CHEMICALS

BAROMETERS



FLUORESCENT LIGHT BULBS



THERMOSTATS

MERCURY FACTS

Mercury is a shiny, silver-gray metal.

Mercury is the only metal that is liquid at room temperature.

Mercury is a good conductor of electricity.

Mercury easily evaporates into the air.

Mercury can be dangerous to your health.

Mercury is poisonous.

be mercury free

A Regional Partnership for Mercury Pollution Reduction