

## **Mercury Spill Clean-up Kits**

The Department of Occupational Health and Safety, Chemical Safety Program, is changing the mercury spill policy to recommend that groups using small amounts of mercury (ex: mercury thermometers) have a mercury spill kit on-hand to clean up small spills. One kit that the department has approved consists of a sponge with a layer of granulated zinc on one side. The sponge is put on the spilled mercury (zinc side down) and the mercury amalgamates with the zinc. Because the mercury is amalgamated, the risk of exposure due to airborne mercury is greatly reduced. The sponge is then disposed of as mercury contaminated lab waste. These kits can be ordered through Fisher Scientific (use Lab Safety Supply catalog # NC9660093, \$31.30/6). Since the kits come six to a box, labs may want to split an order. Also, a limited number of these kits are available from the OH&S office.