

For More Information

If you would like more information about mercury in Wisconsin's environment or a list of dairy equipment service providers participating in the mercury manometer replacement program, please complete the form below and mail or fax it to:

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Mercury Manometer Recycling Program

Please send me: (✓)

- A list of participating dairy equipment service providers.
- A publication entitled, "Mercury in Wisconsin's Environment-- A Status Report"

Name _____

Street _____

City _____

State, Zip _____

Phone _____

Mercury is Dangerous

- Mercury can cause serious health and ecological problems when released to the environment through human activities.
- If mercury spills, it is difficult to clean up and often requires a professional service.
- Spilled mercury can evaporate at room temperature and easily be inhaled. You cannot see, smell, or taste these vapors.
- In the environment, mercury can be converted into methylmercury, a form of mercury that builds up in the tissue of certain species of wildlife, such as game fish.
- Exposure to mercury can result in long term damage to the kidneys, liver and central nervous system. Young children and developing fetuses are most at risk.

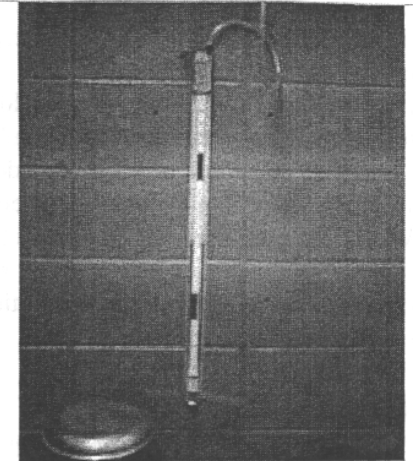
Dairy farms are not the only ones concerned about mercury. Health care facilities, automobile manufacturers, the dental industry and others are also working to eliminate mercury and its dangers.



Great Lakes
National Program Office

MERCURY MANOMETER REPLACEMENT PROGRAM

Does Your Milking System have a Vacuum Gauge with Mercury in it?



**Mercury can be dangerous to
our environment and health.**

**Replace your mercury gauge
with a non-mercury gauge.**

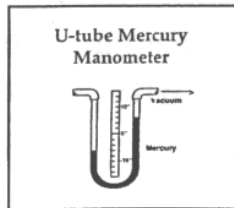
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Why Should I Replace My Mercury Manometer?

Take advantage of this subsidized opportunity to protect yourself and others. While mercury is a unique element with many useful properties, it is toxic to humans and other living creatures. Rain and wastewater discharge have deposited mercury in many Wisconsin lakes. Through the process of bioaccumulation, mercury passes up the food chain, eventually to fish and people that eat fish. The Department of Natural Resources (DNR) samples fish in Wisconsin lakes and issues a detailed report and health advisory about eating fish from these lakes. The Mercury Manometer Replacement Program is part of a long-term strategy agreed on by U.S. and Canada to substitute non-mercury devices wherever there is a suitable replacement. When you participate in this project you remove 12 ounces of mercury that might otherwise have been released into the environment in the future.

How Do I Know If My Manometer Contains Mercury?

A mercury gauge is a glass tube, usually U-shaped, with a silver colored liquid that moves up and down in response to pressure changes in the milking system. The pressure is read from marks along side of the glass tube. In non-mercury gauges the pressure is read from a dial or a digital display.



How Do I Participate?

The dairy farmer's role is simple. You notify your regular dairy equipment service provider that you want your mercury gauge replaced. While working with your service provider, you pick the best gauge for you. Upon installation, you sign a certificate indicating that you received a new gauge and/or your old gauge was taken away. Act soon because this is a limited time offer. The program will cease when funds run out.

Who Will Replace My Mercury Gauge?

Ask your regular, trusted, dairy equipment service provider to install your new gauge on their next scheduled visit. Or, you can select any participating service provider. Your service provider is familiar with your equipment and can help you select and install the correct, new gauge and calibrate it to the optimum milking vacuum pressure. The mercury from your manometer will be recycled by a professional mercury recycler.

What If I Have A Mercury Manometer But No Longer Milk Cows?

You can still participate. DNR would like to collect abandoned mercury manometers from former dairy farms. An abandoned, mercury filled manometer probably has more potential to be spilled into the environment than one that is used every day. Please contact a participating dairy equipment service provider to properly remove your gauge. If you are not currently milking, you will not

receive a new gauge. You will be avoiding a potential future health hazard due to mercury exposure.

Am I Eligible?

The program is fully funded in Adams, Ashland, Bayfield, Brown, Calumet, Columbia, Door, Douglas, Florence, Fond du Lac, Forest, Green Lake, Iron, Kenosha, Kewaunee, Langlade, Manitowoc, Marathon, Marinette, Marquette, Menominee, Milwaukee, Oconto, Oneida, Outagamie, Ozaukee, Portage, Racine, Shawano, Sheboygan, Washington, Waukesha, Waupaca, Waushara or Winnebago counties. In the rest of the state funding is limited to certificates that are currently in the hands of the participating dealers.

Who Will Pay for My New Vacuum Gauge?

DNR will pay the service provider \$200.00 to purchase and install a new, good quality, vacuum gauge and remove and transport the mercury gauge. If you want a gauge with special features or have unique installation requirements you may be asked to pay these additional costs. If you are no longer milking and do not need a new gauge, DNR will still pay the service provider \$100.00 to safely remove and haul your old mercury gauge.

This project is funded by a grant from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and managed by DNR. The Great Lakes National Program Office (GLNPO) at EPA has made this funding available as part of a long-term strategy to reduce the amount of mercury in our environment. This grant provides \$34,000 for direct buy-out of mercury manometers from dairy farmers.