

Spills and Spill Response

Spills of oil, chemicals and other substances that could cause injury or damage to the environment should be prevented. If a spill does occur, it should be attended to as quickly as possible to minimise impacts that may be caused. All businesses should have emergency response procedures in place and must have spill kits available for the management of these situations (kitty litter and sawdust are not appropriate).

How can spills be avoided?

- Keeping containers tightly sealed
- Regularly inspecting containers for leaks
- Following proper handling methods
- Using drip trays
- Bunding chemical storage areas

What can I do if a spill does occur?

If a spill does occur it must be quickly contained to prevent it reaching stormwater or causing other contamination.

Containment methods for spills can include:

- Containment booms
- Rags for wiping hands, parts or spot spills
- Special absorbent pads
- Approved absorbent materials
- Special absorbent pellets, granules
- Mops for small spills (water must be disposed of using a triple interceptor)

Depending on the method of clean up you use, you will need to dispose of the clean-up material according to approved methods. In all cases you should refer to each spilled substance's Safety Data Sheet for information on proper clean up measures. If you do not have the relevant SDS for the spilled product contact the supplier immediately.

Note

Members of the public are able to report substances running off your site by calling the EPA Pollution Hotline. Therefore it is important for businesses to avoid chemical spills and have processes in place for correct containment of spills in case of an emergency.



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