



Environmental MATTERS

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Environment - Spill Containment Kits



Occupiers of premises where dangerous goods or combustible liquids are present are required to contain and clean up a spill of those materials.

Appropriate equipment and materials for clean-up must be kept on hand and be readily accessible at all times.

Spills must be cleaned up as soon as possible. Advice on how to clean up spills safely and selecting appropriate protective equipment and resources can be obtained from the manufacturer's Material Safety Data Sheets (MSDS).

Any premises where liquid dangerous goods or combustible liquids are stored or handled needs to have a spill kit/s that contains appropriate materials and equipment. The types of materials and equipment needed to clean up spills will vary depending on the nature and quantity of goods stored or handled. Suitable materials and equipment may include the following:

- ◆ absorbent materials in sufficient quantities - sand, kitty litter, fuller's earth, absorbents sheets / rolls / pillows;
- ◆ neutralising media;

- ◆ equipment for recovering spilled materials - shovel, scoop, broom, bucket, mop, bag, portable pump and hose for transferring spilt liquids (suitable for the liquids);
- ◆ containers for recovered materials - impervious to and compatible with the spilled materials, over-packs (for placing leaking drums within);
- ◆ personal protective equipment - chemical boots, splash apron, splash shield, respiratory protection.

It should be noted that where very small quantities of dangerous goods or combustible liquids are stored or handled it may not be necessary to use expensive spills containment systems, however, it is necessary to ensure that simple spills containment systems and procedures are put in place. For example, it may be appropriate to place drip trays underneath small packages of hazardous liquids and to provide appropriate absorbent materials and protective equipment.

Consider the following:

1. Is your spill kit regularly maintained and adequately stocked?
2. Is your spill kit clearly labelled and identified?
3. Is your spill kit stored in an accessible location?
4. Are all staff aware of the location of the spill kit and trained in its use?
5. Are essential items such as shovel, broom, mop, PPE etc to handle the used absorbent materials present?

Protecting Our Mangroves

If your premise backs onto a sensitive area such as a mangrove area, remember all marine plants are protected under Queensland law. The destruction, damage or disturbance of marine plants without prior approval from Fisheries Queensland is prohibited and carries hefty penalties. Protection applies to all marine plants, no matter where they grow (i.e. on all private and public lands).

WHY ARE MANGROVES IMPORTANT?

In the past mangroves have been considerably undervalued. The wetlands in which mangroves occur have been considered 'wastelands', or breeding grounds for nuisance insects such as mosquitoes. However mangroves serve three key functions:

1. they provide habitat
2. they provide food
3. they act as a buffer; reducing erosion and maintaining water quality

The reason mangroves, as a "marine plant", are protected by the Queensland law is due to their significance as fish habitats. Gladstone region is one of the best fishing spots in the world. Don't allow your business's activity or anyone else's to destroy these important plants.

If you see anyone damaging mangroves, please contact the Department of Primary Industries (DPI) - Fisheries on **13 25 23** (cost of local call anywhere in Queensland).



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Burning off is prohibited!

Why is burning banned?

Smoke from burning off can cause a nuisance to neighbours and interfere with their normal daily activities and also their health. The *Environmental Protection Act 1994* introduced by the State Government includes controls for smoke emissions. Council is legally required to enforce these controls when a smoke problem occurs.

What will happen to me if I continue to burn off?

If the smoke is determined to be a nuisance, Council will issue you a "direction notice". A direction notice will detail what offence has

taken place and the time frame that the offender has to rectify the problem. If the direction notice is not complied with, Council may then issue an on-the-spot fine to the value of \$1000.

Are there any exceptions?

Exceptions are only given to those who use a wood fired BBQ, which is allowed for the sole purpose of cooking food. However open fires in steel drums, fire pits, etc during the cooler seasons are also not recommended.

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