



Environmental MATTERS



Spill Containment Kits

Major or minor spills can occur at premises where dangerous goods or combustible liquids are present and must be cleaned up immediately. Appropriate equipment and materials for clean-up must be kept on hand and be readily accessible at all times. Advice for specific products 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.

Regular considerations to be made include:

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

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Regulated Wastes

If your business is disposing of regulated waste it is your responsibility to ensure that the regulated waste is appropriately disposed of through a licensed waste contractor or at a hazardous waste disposal facility.

What are regulated wastes?

Regulated wastes are wastes that have been identified as unsafe for municipal or refuse land disposal, listed under Schedule 7 of the *Environmental Protection Regulation 2008*. Regulated waste includes oils and other hazardous chemicals, tyres, abrasive materials, sewage, animal effluent and residues and containers that have held regulated waste, such as oil and hazardous chemical containers, batteries, filters etc.

Regulated waste requires traceability to ensure that all regulated waste is disposed of correctly. Evidence of traceability must be kept at your facility in the form of:

- Licensed waste transport receipts;
- Hazardous waste disposal facility dockets;
- Waste manifest documents.

There are conditions under the *Environmental Protection (Waste Management) Regulation 2000*, for the transportation of regulated waste to a hazardous waste disposal facility. Contact Gladstone Regional Council's Environmental Health Department for further information on regulated waste transportation.



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All businesses that store any chemicals or products that could contaminate the environment must ensure that they are adequately banded. A bund should be able to hold 100% of the capacity of the largest storage container plus 25% of the total storage. A bund must be built out of impervious materials that are resistant to fire and compatible with the liquids to be contained.

Distance between containers & bund wall

Banded compounds need to be designed and constructed to ensure, that if containers were to fail, the liquid would not spray over the edge of

Bund Designs

the bund wall.

The distance between a storage container and its bund wall is important. This distance will increase depending on the height of the container. A good rule of thumb is the "half-height rule". The distance from the storage container to the bund wall should be at least half of the height of the container. The closer the wall is to the tank, the higher the wall has to be, because of the decreased surface area available.

The half-height rule may be waived where adequate restraint is provided to prevent contaminants from leaving the banded area, such as a splash barrier erected.

Where to find more information

- DGSM Information Paper 10 - Spills containment and clean-up (available on Councils website).
- Australian Standard 1940:2004—The Storage and Handling of Flammable and Combustible Liquids



Environmental Health
Gladstone Regional Council
101 Goondoon Street
Gladstone Qld 4680
PO Box 29
Gladstone Qld 4680

Phone: (07) 4976 6996
Fax: (07) 4975 7106

E-mail:
info@gladstonerc.qld.gov.au
Website:
www.gladstonerc.qld.gov.au

Is your Wastewater Treatment System operating effectively?

The use of degreasers and detergents are common products used within workshops resulting in waste water that must be appropriately treated before disposal. Most common treatment of such waste water is via an oil/water/solids separator which is then discharged to sewer.

The following important points should be considered to ensure your waste water is being managed effectively:

1. A current trade waste permit is held with Council's trade waste department.
2. Quick break detergents and degreaser products are being used. After temporarily emulsifying oil and dirt into the wash down water during the cleaning process, quick break detergents and degreasers separate the oil and dirt from

the clean water following the wash down process. More than 90% of the oil rises to the surface within 30 minutes of wash down. The oil is then easily separated from the clean water in a collection pit or in the separator.

3. The system is monitored with oil collected being disposed of through a regulated waste collection contractor (tracking receipts kept on file) & sludge cleaned out as required.
4. The treated waste water is discharged from the site to sewer.

TAKE NOTE

Old approvals may have originally connected the treated wastewater discharge to stormwater. This is no longer accepted, and connection to the Council



sewer system in accordance with a trade waste permit is required. Alternatively, the waste water can be held in a storage container on site and collected by a suitable waste contractor.

*"We do not inherit the earth from our ancestors,
we borrow it from our children"*

(Native American Proverb)

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