

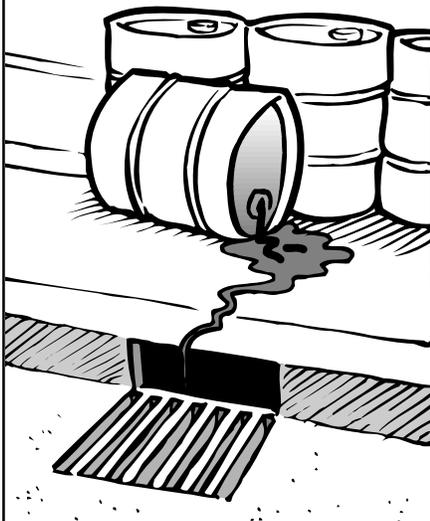


Preventing & Cleaning Up Spills

Why be concerned?

Even a small spill can pollute vast amounts of water; one quart of oil can contaminate up to two million gallons of water! In addition to environmental impacts, cleaning up a spill that's reached a lake, river or stream can cost many thousands of dollars. If the source of the spill can be identified, the responsible party is legally liable for all clean-up costs.

It makes good economic sense for any business that uses chemical, petroleum, or even some bulk food products to establish basic procedures to follow in the event of a spill. You may be required to prepare a spill prevention and response plan under federal, state and/or county law (for example, if your business generates regulated amounts of hazardous waste). For more information about spill prevention and response requirements, contact one of the agencies listed under "Getting Help."



PREVENTING SPILLS is easier *and* less costly than cleaning them up

Examine your business practices for ways to prevent spills. For instance:

- Don't leave open containers or tanks that are being filled unattended.
- Use a funnel when transferring liquids from one container to another.
- Place trays under open containers and spouts of liquid storage containers.
- Buy products in smaller quantities, whenever it's cost-effective. A five gallon spill is much easier to cope with than a 55 gallon spill. Hazardous chemical reporting and compliance is also simpler with smaller containers.

Designing Work Areas to Contain Spills

Spills are more common in certain locations, such as loading, storage, and fueling areas. Design and organize these areas to reduce the chance of spills and to contain any spill that may occur. At a minimum:

- Make sure these areas are paved and, if necessary, bermed around the perimeter.
- Equip floor drains with shut-off valves and regularly inspect these valves to make sure they work. Alternatively, keep rubber mats or temporary plugs on hand so that drain inlets can be blocked immediately if a spill occurs. If plugs are used, train employees in advance about how to use them.

Preparing a Spill Response Plan

In general, a spill response plan should include the following:

1. A description of the facility, including:
 - the owner's name and address
 - activities performed on-site
 - chemicals used and locations of chemical storage areas
 - storm drains and the areas that slope toward each drain
 - the location of spill control devices such as drain shut-off valves
2. Regulatory agencies that must be notified in the event of a spill. Since laws governing spill response can be numerous, it's a good idea to protect yourself by calling all of the following numbers:
 - Cobb County Emergency Response: call 911.
 - GA Environmental Protection Division: (800) 241-4113.
 - Cobb County Stormwater Management (770) 419-6435
Water Quality Section (770) 419-6441
 - Cobb County Environmental Compliance (770) 419-6422
3. Specific clean-up instructions for each material handled on-site, safety requirements, and guidelines for evacuation.
4. Persons responsible for spill clean-up, updating the spill control plan, training staff in clean-up procedures, testing the clean-up kit equipment and maintaining the kit's inventory.

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Spill containment and clean-up kits should be easy to find and use. Include any needed safety equipment and clean-up materials appropriate to the types and quantities of materials that could spill. For hazardous materials, this information can be found on the product's Material Safety and Data Sheet (MSDS). If you're uncertain about what to include in a spill containment and clean-up kit, many companies that sell spill control materials will provide this information.

Post a summary of your spill control plan at appropriate locations. The summary should include the name(s) of clean-up coordinators, the location of clean-up materials, and who to contact in case of a spill. Periodically review the plan with the employees responsible for its implementation.

Safe and Successful Spill Response

If a spill occurs, respond immediately and follow your clean-up plan. *Never wash spilled materials down a storm drain or sanitary sewer or allow them to evaporate*, since pollutants will remain on the ground and can be washed off with the next rain. If the spill is on an unpaved surface, prevent groundwater pollution by removing contaminated soil. Dispose of this soil as hazardous waste if the substance that spilled is hazardous. Otherwise, soil can be placed in a plastic bag and put in a trash receptacle.

First and foremost, protect personal safety and the safety of others. Don't enter an area where toxic materials have spilled without proper protective clothing and gear. Stay upwind, uphill, and upstream of the spill. Get assistance from local authorities and private spill response contractors for anything your employees aren't trained and equipped to handle; names and phone numbers should be listed in your spill control plan. Be sure to:

- Refer to the appropriate MSDS for clean-up instructions and potential safety risks.
- Stop the source of the spill.
- Turn off sump pumps operating in the affected area.

- Contain the spill. If the spill could enter a drain, immediately close the control valve or, if no valve is present, plug or cover the drain inlet (for example, with a rubber mat).

If the spill involves a powder that could blow away, contain it by covering it with plastic or - if it won't react with water - by dampening it with wet towels or a light spray of water. Then, sweep or wipe it up.

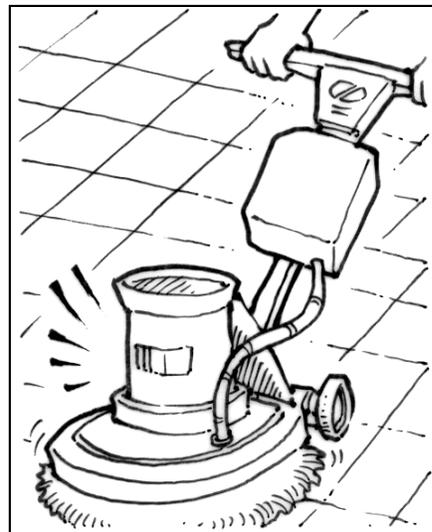
If the spill involves a liquid, cover it with an absorbent material that can be swept or picked up such as sawdust or vermiculite. Absorbent booms can be used to contain and soak up larger spills.

Unless the material has a high flash point, avoid the use of emulsifiers and dispersants. The goal is to contain the spill — not scatter it. Similarly, don't use a hose or wet mop. Using water adds to the volume of the spill and spreads the material around a larger area.

- Report significant spills to the appropriate authorities and get outside help if needed. If a hazardous substance could enter the sanitary sewer system, notify The Cobb County Office of Environmental Compliance.

Disposing of Clean-Up Materials

- In general, absorbent materials used to clean up hazardous substances (including gasoline and solvents) must be disposed of as hazardous waste.
- Rags used to soak up non-hazardous spills should *not* be put in a trash container. Store them in a covered bin and send them to a professional cleaning service.



- Floor scrubbing machines should be discharged to a sanitary sewer – never to a storm drain or swale.

GETTING HELP

General Information:

GA Dept. of Natural Resources
Pollution Prevention
Assistance Division
(P²AD) (404) 651-5120
or (800) 685-2443

Cobb County Fire Marshall .. (770) 528-8307

Community Partners for
Healthy Streams (770) 528-1482

Emergency Response:

Cobb County Emergency Response ... 911

GA Environmental
Protection Division
(GAEPD) (404) 656-4863
or (800) 241-4113

Cobb County
Stormwater Management .. (770) 419-6435
Water Quality Section (770) 419-6441

Cobb County
Office of Environmental
Compliance (770) 419-6422