



# Spill control, prevention and environmental guidance for the construction sector



Construction sector specific information



Guidance on spill prevention and recovery



Best practice guidance and regulations



Guidance on recovering different spill types



Hazards to look out for in construction



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## Introduction

This guide sets out to identify the requirements for construction businesses of all sizes and types to better understand and meet their obligations to protect the environment and prevent spills from occurring.

Although all construction sites are different, there are some common risks that can be found on most if not all. Where plant and machinery are used, there is always the risk of fuel leaks or hydraulic oil spills. Fuel storage areas also present a risk, as do the areas used to refuel vehicles or machines. A lot of construction takes place around water, so again pollution entering into a water course is a risk that needs to be considered. This guide is designed to assist in recognising these risks and identifying suitable products to have in place.

Sections of text are quoted from the [www.gov.uk](http://www.gov.uk) environment website, which features best practice guidance and regulations. Please note this document only refers to guidance and regulations in England and Wales. Separate Pollution Prevention Guidelines (PPG) provide information for construction in Scotland and Northern Ireland.

To make this document as easy to refer to as possible the format features text quoted from the guidance and /or regulations followed by a section advising how the aforementioned can be met or mitigated against. This will include where applicable presenting products that are available and conform to the requirements specified.

## Your Responsibilities

You are responsible for preventing your business or organisation from causing or allowing pollution to happen.

Pollution is when any substance that harms or could harm people or the environment gets into the air, water or ground.

If you pollute, you could get an unlimited fine, go to prison for up to 5 years, or both. You may also have to pay for the whole cost of the clean-up.

Contact the Environment Agency pollution incident hotline if polluting materials have entered or could enter a watercourse or soak into the ground, e.g. from a leak or uncontained spill.

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## Examples of pollution occurring resulting in a fine!



Case Study 1, Published 21 November 2017 From the Environment Agency

### Harron Homes fined £120,000 over construction pollution

Company failed to control silt run-off from its Farriers Croft estate

A Leeds-based house building company has been fined £120,000 for illegally polluting a watercourse from a Huddersfield construction site.

Harron Homes Limited was sentenced yesterday (20 November) at Leeds Magistrates' Court after admitting one charge of causing illegal discharges from its Farriers Croft estate in 2015. The Environment Agency prosecuted the firm after investigating reports of contaminated run-off which was entering a tributary of Grimescar Dyke.

Rosalind Emsley-Smith, prosecuting for the Environment Agency, told the court that an officer visited the site on 20 November 2015 and saw polluted water flowing out of the entrance of the construction site. The company was also pumping silt contaminated water from site excavations which also entered the watercourse.

Following the Environment Agency's visit, Harron Homes attempted to control the silt run-off by setting up settlement tanks. However, further incidents of pollution were reported in November and December 2015 and subsequent inspections revealed that this system was inadequate. Silty

water was found to be discharging, resulting in further pollution.

Samples taken from the discharges showed that they were having a significant impact on the water quality in the watercourse up to three kilometres further downstream. Some samples showed there to be nearly 35,000 milligrams of suspended solids per litre of water, whereas a healthy watercourse is expected to have a concentration lower than 30 milligrams per litre.

The firm's attempt to contain the muddy water was inadequate; silt was seen flowing off the site

Mark West, environment management team leader at the Environment Agency, said:

These pollution incidents had a significant impact on the water environment over a number of weeks and were entirely avoidable. In West Yorkshire there has been a worrying increase in the number of pollutions incidents reported to us that on investigation are attributable to the construction sector.

Construction companies should consider the potential environmental impact of developments they undertake at the initial planning stage and must adhere to environmental permitting rules

and invest in appropriate management systems to prevent their activities from affecting the local environment.

If anyone spots pollution of this kind, they are urged to contact the Environment Agency's incident hotline on 0800 807060 so we can investigate.

In mitigation, Harron Homes told the court that it had now put procedures in place to prevent future pollution incidents.

In addition to the fine, the company was ordered to pay £8,706.71 in legal costs and a £120 victim surcharge.



Products that can prevent silt pollution:  
**Filtatech (see page 06)**



Case Study 2, Published 17 January 2018 From the Environment Agency

### Contractors fined over diesel leak at Christchurch Hospital

Two contractors have been ordered to pay more than £180,000 in fines and costs for polluting groundwater with over 11,000 litres of diesel during the re-development of Christchurch Hospital, Dorset.

Kier Construction Limited (KIER), and their sub-contractor BKP Waste Recycling Limited (BKP), were sentenced at Bournemouth Crown Court on 12 January 2018 after earlier pleading guilty to an offence under the Environmental Permitting (England and Wales) Regulations 2010.

Kier Construction was commissioned by The Royal Bournemouth and Christchurch Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust to carry out re-development work at Christchurch Hospital in February 2012. KIER appointed BKP Waste Recycling Limited to drain and remove oil from an oil supply line in the hospital grounds.

Oil escaped from a poorly-made connection in the oil supply pipework, which failed during routine testing of heating systems at the hospital in November 2014. The spillage polluted

groundwater.

The case was bought by the Environment Agency at the end of a lengthy investigation that uncovered negligence on the part of both contractors.

Ian Withers of the Environment Agency said:

This pollution incident had the potential to cause serious harm to the environment and was entirely avoidable. The 2 companies failed to understand the extent of the work required and mitigate the risks. Construction companies must adhere to environmental permitting regulations to prevent their activities from affecting the local environment.

KIER was fined £100,000 with £30,301 costs for causing groundwater activity under regulation 38

(1) (a) of the Environmental Permitting (England and Wales) Regulations 2010. BKP was fined £10,200 for the same offence with £42,851 costs.



Pollution prevention:  
**Spill kits (see page 05)**  
**Secondary Containment (see pages 14 - 15)**  
**Drain Covers (see page 12)**



# Containers of oil-based fluids at your site



**What the guidance or regulations say:**

- petrol
- diesel
- biofuels
- kerosene
- synthetic oils, for example motor oil - including waste oil
- oils used as solvents
- biodegradable oils, for example lubricating or hydraulic oils
- liquid bitumen-based products, for example waterproofing or damp proofing products, or coatings for a road surface

**You must follow the regulations for businesses if your oil container can hold 201 litres or more of:**

**The Environment Agency recommends the following capacities for secondary containment:**

- at least 25% of the capacity of storage containers up to 205 litres capacity
- at least 110% of the capacity of storage containers over 205 litres capacity

**You must make sure your secondary containment is suitable for the substances you store, including its size and construction.**

**You must not allow the contents of containers to get into surface water or groundwater.**

**The Environment Agency advises that you place your storage at least:**

- 10m away from watercourses, open drains, gullies, unsurfaced areas or porous surfaces
- 50m from wells, springs or boreholes



**Products that would help you meet these requirements:**

- Drip Trays
- Work Floors
- Spill Pallets
- Secondary Containment



## Drip Trays

These two part rugged polypropylene spill trays feature a detachable inset tray top. This sits within a deep base which acts as a sump. Available in three sizes.

- 31-3081 Small Drip tray (20L)
- 31-3085 Medium Drip tray (40L)
- 31-3089 Large Drip tray (100L)



## Spill Pallets

Available in different sizes to accommodate a range of drum and containers. Recessed forklift slots allow for easy movement of the spill pallets

- 454261 Two Drum Spill Pallet
- 454262 Four Drum Spill Pallet



454262

## Work Floors

Modular bases that interlock and provide a sturdy base to store an handle fluid containers. Work ramps provide easy access with wheeled transport. All work floors feature the required capacity sump to hold spilled or leaking fluids

- 31-3022 Prestige Two Drum Spill Pallet
- 31-3024 Prestige Four Drum Spill Pallet
- 31-3000 Work floor Ramp



## Secondary Containment Units

A range of covered and open tough rigid units that feature the required capacity sump to accommodate spills or leaking containers.

- 31-3025 Two drum all weather unit
- 31-3024 Four drum all weather unit
- 31-3036 Two Drum Racking Unit

- 31-3067 Two Drum Stacking Unit
- 31-3060 Drum Transporter



31-3025




## Things to look out for:

Avoid transporting loaded drums on spill pallets or in secondary containment units as these can

easily topple over when traversing rough ground. When recovering spilled fluids from

the sumps of these units ensure all fluid is disposed of according to waste disposal guidelines.

# Unloading and moving potential pollutants




**What the guidance or regulations say:**

**Make sure you have procedures to prevent pollutants from spilling or leaking when they're being delivered, loaded or moved around your premises.**


**You should:**

- load and unload in suitable places on your site - make sure there are no open drains to surface water and carry out a risk assessment
- use pre-arranged routes for deliveries and movements
- have a **spill kit**, suitable to the products on your site, available near storage, loading areas and transfer routes
- supervise deliveries, and make sure the people involved know what to do if there's a spill **and how to use the spill kit**



**Products that would help you meet these requirements:**

- Spill Kits
- Drain Covers (see page 12)
- Spill Training (see page 10)





454258    499624    451826



454259



454257

### Clip Top Portable Spill Kits

Containing pads and where applicable socks along with waste bags and ties, these kits contain everything to recover a spill.

- 451825 15 Litre Chemical Spill Kit
- 496623 15 Litre Maintenance Spill Kit
- 454256 15 Litre Oil only Spill Kit
- 451826 30 Litre Chemical Spill Kit
- 499624 30 Litre Maintenance Spill Kit
- 454258 30 Litre Oil only Spill Kit

### Static Spill Kits


This spill kit is ideal for locating near to any fluid handling sites. The drum can also act as a container to hold the used absorbent in the event to a spill. Refill absorbent are available for these kits once used.

- 451828 80 Litre Static Chemical Spill Kit
- 496625 80 Litre Static Maintenance Spill Kit
- 454259 80 Litre Static Oil only Spill Kit

### Wheeled portable Spill Kits

Two wheeled bins with a hinged lid allow for a significant quantity of absorbents to be delivered to the site of a spill at a moments notice.

- 496628 120 Litre Chemical Spill Kit
- 496626 120 Litre Maintenance Spill Kit
- 454255 120 Litre Oil only Spill Kit
- 496629 240 Litre Chemical Spill Kit
- 496627 240 Litre Maintenance Spill Kit
- 454257 240 Litre Oil only Spill Kit



**What type of absorbents are best for construction sites?**

The spill kits we recommend are Oil only and contain polypropylene absorbent pads and socks. This means that they will recover only oil-based fluids. These are perfect for outdoor use when recovering

fluids like solvents, fuel oils, diesel and other hydrocarbon based compounds as they wont absorb any water at the same time. If you require spill kits to recover both oil and water based fluids at

the same time see our Universal/ Maintenance spill kits (see page 11 for Universal spill kits). For hazardous or unknown spill types see our Chemical spill kit range (see page 11 for Chemical spill kits).




## Things to look out for:

When cleaning up a spill it is extremely important that personal protection equipment is available and used. Recovering spills can

be hazardous and should only be performed by competent and ideally well trained staff. Consider training so that your workforce

know what to do in the event of a spill.

# Construction, inspection and maintenance




**What the guidance or regulations say:**

It's up to you to assess and minimise pollution risk at your site and know how you'll respond if there is an incident. You can also make a pollution incident response plan.


**You should:**

- prevent water from entering excavations by using cut-off ditches or covering the excavation
- collect contaminated water (eg run-off or water pumped out of excavations) in a system where it can be recycled or treated, e.g. using a settlement tank or lagoon
- carry out activities involving potential pollutants, e.g. concrete or fuel, in dedicated areas which are designed so that spills, leaks, drips and contaminated run-off can be captured and disposed of
- protect stockpiles (e.g. soil, sand, hardcore) so that materials aren't blown or washed away




**Services that would help you meet these requirements:**

- **Spill Training** - Contact us now for more information about this +44 (0) 121 567 4111
- **Free Site Survey** - Contact us now for more information about this service we provide +44 (0)121 567 4111



# Temporary de-watering from excavations



**What the guidance or regulations say:**


Temporary de-watering from excavations to surface water - (Updated 16 July 2018)

You usually need an environmental permit if you discharge liquid or waste water into surface water.

**Conditions you must comply with**


**The discharge must:**

- be clean water, for example clear rainwater or infiltrated groundwater which has collected in the bottom of temporary excavations
- not result in water containing fine or coarse suspended solids (silty water) entering surface water
- not last more than 3 consecutive months (the activity may stop and restart but the clock does not restart) - if the activity is likely to go over 3 consecutive months then you need to apply for a permit



**Products that would help you meet these requirements:**

- **Filtatech Sediment Filter Sock**
- **Booms**



## Filtatech

The Lubetech Filtatech Sediment Sock has been developed to facilitate excavation de-watering operations, removing and containing suspended particles and minor oil slicks. The product has been designed to be used with site pumps with operating pressures of up to 5 bar and flow rates of up to 2000 litres per minute.

**47-7012** 1.2m diameter Filtatech Filter Sock

**47-7009** 0.9m diameter Filtatech Sediment Filter Sock



## Booms

Oil-only booms are designed to float on water and will absorb just oil-based fluids. These booms feature a tough sock-in-net construction with a nylon rope for added strength. Hooks and eyelets 60cm in from each end allow multiple lengths to be attached together to form longer barrages.

**454243** Pack of 4 x 13cm diameter oil only booms

**21-1008** Pack of 4 x 20cm diameter oil only booms



# Oil storage



**What the guidance or regulations say:**

How to store oil, design standards for tanks and containers, where to locate and how to protect them, and capacity of bunds and drip trays.

You must follow the rules on storing oil if you've got an oil storage container with a capacity of 201 litres or more at a business.

**Storage containers include:**

- oil drums and fixed tanks
- intermediate bulk containers (IBCs)
- mobile bowlers - containers designed to store and dispense oil that can be moved between locations but not under their own power
- some types of generator and transformer

**You could be fined or prosecuted if you do not follow the requirements. The Environment Agency can also serve an anti-pollution works notice to make you bring your oil store up to legal standards.**

**Oil types**

You must follow the rules if you store any of these types of oil:

- petrol
- diesel
- biofuels
- kerosene
- synthetic oils, normally lubricating oils like motor oil
- oils used as solvents
- biodegradable oils, usually lubricating or hydraulic oils

- liquid bitumen-based products, for example waterproofing or damp proofing products, or coatings for a road surface
- cutting fluids, for example lubricants designed specifically for metalworking processes, that are made from or contain oil as oil-water emulsions
- insulating oils, used as electrical insulator and coolant
- Grease is a mixture of oil and other substances, usually soap, and is viscous unless heated. It require grease to be stored on a drip tray, but it is expected that containers are either below 200 litres or stored indoors.



**Products that would help you meet these requirements:**

- **Drip Trays**
- **Work Floors**
- **Site Mat**
- **IBC Spill Pallets**



## Site Mat

Available in a wide range of sizes. Site Mat comprises of an inner liner and a robust base that prevents spills or leaks from plant machinery reaching the surface below.

- 454371** Site Mat (Small)
- 454369** Site Mat (Medium)
- 454370** Site Mat (Large)
- 454374** Site Mat Liner+ (Small)
- 454372** Site Mat Liner+ (Medium)
- 454373** Site Mat Liner+ (Large)
- 496647** Site Mat Kit (Small)
- 496648** Site Mat Kit (Medium)
- 496649** Site Mat Kit (Large)



## IBC Spill Pallets

Available in different sizes to accommodate a range of drum and containers. Recessed forklift slots allow for easy movement of the spill pallets

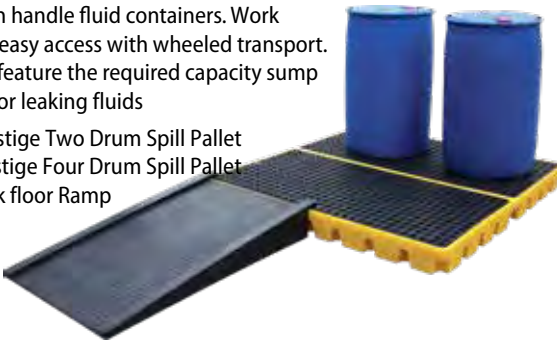
- 31-3071** Single IBC pallet complete with grating
- 31-3070** Prestige polyethylene single IBC Spill Pallet
- 31-3075** Prestige poly single IBC Spill Pallet with dispensing well
- 31-3073** Prestige polyethylene double IBC Spill Pallet c/w grate



## Work Floors

Modular bases that interlock and provide a sturdy base to store and handle fluid containers. Work ramps provide easy access with wheeled transport. All work floors feature the required capacity sump to hold spilled or leaking fluids

- 31-3022** Prestige Two Drum Spill Pallet
- 31-3024** Prestige Four Drum Spill Pallet
- 31-3000** Work floor Ramp




## Drip Trays

These two part rugged polypropylene spill trays feature a detachable inset tray top. This sits within a deep base which acts as a sump. Available in three sizes.

- 31-3081** Small Drip tray (20L)
- 31-3085** Medium Drip tray (40L)
- 31-3089** Large Drip tray (100L)






**Things to look out for:**

Construction site oil-based fluid storage will mostly be based around temporary dispensing containers containing oil-based fluids. Sighting these on drip trays, work floors or spill pallets will provide suitable spill prevention. In the case of mobile plant or vehicles and tailors, Site Mat can provide a suitable barrier to prevent oil-based fluids from soaking into the surface below.



# Secondary containment and bunds



**What the guidance or regulations say:**

You must install secondary containment around your container to catch any oil that leaks.

Secondary containment is usually either:

- a **drip tray** beneath the container
- a **bund** - an outer case which holds the container

You should use secondary containment for any containers on your site that aren't integrally banded, including double-skinned containers. Secondary containment can help to prevent:

- solvents leaking from containers
- spills from fires and explosions in storage areas

If you don't provide secondary containment on your site, you may have to explain why it isn't needed

Fixed tanks must be banded. Other containers can be banded or use **drip trays**.

Secondary containment does not include:

- 'double-skinned' or 'twin-walled tanks', where the tank is surrounded by a second outer skin for extra strength

during an inspection from, for example, the Health and Safety Executive, a local authority or the Environment Agency.

Secondary containment could include:


- simple **spill decks** and **containment platforms**
- safety storage platforms** with **spill decks**
- engineered solutions, such as bunds and **prefabricated systems made from steel or plastic**

oil separators

If you use a bund, it must hold 110% of the capacity of the container. If you do not have a bund, check your secondary containment has the required capacity, depending on what kind of container it's holding.


Make sure that secondary containment:

- is impermeable and chemically resistant to the solvents stored in it – some types of concrete are not resistant to all types of solvent
- has clear labelling stating its contents, if it's enclosed
- has no services passing through it (e.g. pipes or ducts)



**Products that would help you meet these requirements:**

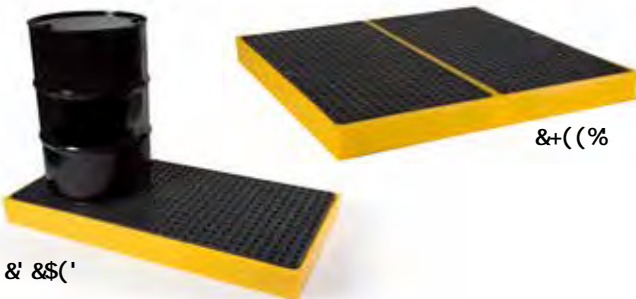
- Spill Trays (see Drip Trays below)
- Spill Pallets (see page 09)
- Work Floors



## Work Floors (Spill Decks or Containment Platforms)

Modular bases that interlock and provide a sturdy base to store an handle fluid containers. Work ramps provide easy access with wheeled transport. All work floors feature the required capacity sump to hold spilled or leaking fluids

- 31-3000 Workfloor Ramp
- 31-3002 Prestige 2-drum polyethylene Spill Platform/Work floor
- 31-3003 Prestige 4-drum polyethylene Spill Platform/Work floor
- 31-3005 1500mm Work floor linking strip
- 31-3006 700mm Work floor linking strip
- 31-3007 Work floor cross connector




## Drip Trays

These two part rugged polypropylene spill trays feature a detachable inset tray top. This sits within a deep base which acts as a sump. Available in 20, 30, 40, 60 and 100 litre sizes.

- 31-3081 Prestige polyethylene 20 litre Spill Tray
- 31-3083 Prestige polyethylene 30 litre Spill Tray
- 31-3085 Prestige polyethylene 40 litre Spill Tray
- 31-3087 Prestige polyethylene 60 litre Spill Tray
- 31-3089 Prestige polyethylene 100 litre Spill Tray
- 31-3180 Prestige polyethylene Platform 20 litre Spill Tray with grate
- 31-3182 Prestige polyethylene Platform 30 litre Spill Tray with grate
- 31-3184 Prestige polyethylene Platform 40 litre Spill Tray with grate
- 31-3186 Prestige polyethylene Platform 60 litre Spill Tray with grate
- 31-3188 Prestige polyethylene Platform 100 litre Spill Tray with grate






**Things to look out for:**

Choosing an off-the-shelf product that conforms to the guidelines is the easiest way of meeting any requirements.

We provide **free site surveys** to help you understand and identify any pollution or spill risks at your site. Contact us now to arrange a

site visit or Spill training to be ready to react to a spill when it occurs.

# Single containers: secondary containment



**What the guidance or regulations say:**

For mobile bowsters, IBCs and other single containers, the secondary containment must have capacity to hold 110% of the capacity of the container.

For example, if your container has a capacity of 2,500 litres, your secondary containment must have capacity for 2,750 litres.

Multiple containers: secondary containment

Secondary containment that contains multiple fixed tanks,


mobile bowsters or IBCs, must have a capacity that is equal to whichever is the greater of these 2 measurements:

- one quarter of the combined capacity of all the containers
- 110% of the capacity of the largest container

If the containers are hydraulically linked, they should be treated as a single container, so the secondary containment must have a capacity of 110% of the combined capacity.


If the containers are hydraulically linked, but have separate secondary containment, each separate secondary bund or drip tray must have a capacity of at least 110% of the combined capacity of all the containers.

If you hydraulically link the secondary drip trays or bunds together, you can count the combined capacity of the bunds or drip trays.




**Products that would help you meet these requirements:**

- Drip Trays (see page 08/11)



# Storage drums: secondary containment capacity




**What the guidance or regulations say:**

The secondary containment for a drum (usually a drip tray) must have a capacity equal to or more than one quarter of the drum it's holding.


If the drip tray can hold more than one drum, it must be able to hold one quarter of the combined capacity of the drums it can hold.

This applies even if you only use the tray to hold a single drum. For example, a drip tray which can hold 4 separate 205-litre drums must have a capacity of 205 litres, even if you're only using it to hold a single 205 litre drum.



**Products that would help you meet these requirements:**

- Spill Pallets
- Work Floors
- Drip Trays (see page 08)



## Spill Pallets and Safety Storage Platforms

Available in different sizes to accommodate a range of drum and containers. Recessed forklift slots allow for easy movement of the spill pallets

- 31-3022 Prestige 2-drum Polyethylene Spill Pallet
- 31-3024 Prestige 4-drum polyethylene Spill Pallet
- 31-3025 Prestige 2-drum poly All weather Spill Pallet
- 31-3071 Single IBC pallet complete with grating
- 31-1267 Prestige polyethylene 205 litre Drum Funnel c/w hinged Lid
- 31-3020 Prestige 1-drum Polyethylene Spill Pallet
- 31-3023 Prestige 4 drum in-line spill pallet
- 31-3026 Prestige 4-drum polyethylene All weather Spill Pallet
- 31-3036 Prestige 2-drum poly Horizontal Racking - base unit
- 31-3037 Prestige 2-drum poly Horizontal Racking - stacking unit
- 31-3060 Prestige polyethylene Drum Transporter and Dispenser
- 31-3075 Prestige poly single IBC Spill Pallet with dispensing well
- 31-3095 Two Part Plastic Shovel



# Develop an environmental management system



**What the guidance or regulations say:**

**You need to show that you operate your site in an environmentally responsible manner by developing operational control procedures in an environmental management system (EMS). Your EMS should show the site's operation control procedures by establishing what measures you are going to have to protect the environment, and how you'll carry them out.**


**Your EMS should include:**

- details of staff training and emergency response procedures
- how you'll carry out checks and deal with problems
- controls such as leak detection, storage, deliveries, dispensing and inspection regimes
- how you'll carry out a management review of your environmental systems / procedures and implement any improvements necessary

**You must prevent groundwater pollution when:**

- delivering and transporting solvents
- storing solvents (either as unused product or waste)
- using solvents
- disposing of solvents


**You should keep up-to-date records of staff training.**



**Services that would help you meet these requirements:**

- **Spill Training** - Contact us now for more information about this +44 (0) 121 567 4111
- **Free Site Survey** - Contact us now for more information about this service we provide +44 (0)121 567 4111

# Respond to an emergency



**What the guidance or regulations say:**


**You should make sure that your emergency response equipment:**

- can deal with the maximum spill that's likely to occur
- is in good working order
- is clearly identified on the site plan (insert this into your PIRP)
- is clearly marked, with directions for its use clearly displayed

**You should also make spill kits available in areas where spills and leaks are likely to occur (e.g. storage, delivery and waste disposal areas). Spill kits should include:**

- absorbent materials
- shovels
- drain bungs or covers

**Make sure that staff are trained to use emergency response equipment.**



**Products that would help you meet these requirements:**

- **Drip Trays**
- **Spill Kits**
- **Drain Covers (see p12)**

## Site Surveys

Site Surveys are provided without charge. An experienced spill professional with in-depth knowledge of construction site spill hazards will attend your site. They will prepare a written report advising on how you can meet your environmental requirements as well as advising on what equipment and spill hazards are present.


There is no obligation to follow the recommendations of the survey, however when compared with the potential damages and cost of a spill clean up (see the case studies at the back of this brochure) following the survey's recommendations is the best option.

## Spill Training

Spill training can be delivered to individuals, teams or to dedicated trainers who can then go on to train other personnel.

From simple 'tool box talks' to more comprehensive 'train the trainer' courses a construction site can be made more aware of the potential hazards and perhaps more importantly what to do in the event of a spill or leak occurring.

**TBT-0001** 'Tool box talk' training for up to 12 people  
**ST-0001** Spill training for site managers and construction managers  
**ST-0002** 'Train the trainer' specialist spill training for businesses



**Things to look out for:**

Having the correct equipment in place is one thing but knowing what to do with it in the event of a spill is another thing altogether.

It only takes an IBC container to be punctured by a forklift for instance, to cause a major spill event. Would the site team know how to respond in an organised and methodical way? After health and safety, spill training is perhaps the most important option when preparing a site for operation.

# Prevent spills and leaks



**What the guidance or regulations say:**

**To prevent spills and leaks you should...**

- place **drip trays** beneath taps and valves in the storage area
- secure the storage area (including taps and valves) against unauthorised access and vandalism
- make sure **spill kits** and emergency equipment are available for staff and in good working order

**You should make sure that both containers and secondary containment are:**

- chemically resistant to the solvents stored in them
- strong enough that they're unlikely to burst or leak

**You should have spare containers and hand transfer pumps available for transferring solvents from damaged containers.**

**Use overdrums to encase damaged containers.**



**Products and services that would help you meet these requirements:**

- **Drip Trays**
- **Spill Kits**
- **Drum Plug & Leak Block**
- **Secondary Containment**
- **Site survey**
- **Spill Training**

## Drip Trays with Grates

These two part rugged polypropylene spill trays feature a detachable inset tray top. This sits within a deep base which acts as a sump. Available in 20, 30, 40, 60 and 100 litre sizes.

**31-3081** Prestige polyethylene 20 litre Spill Tray  
**31-3083** Prestige polyethylene 30 litre Spill Tray  
**31-3085** Prestige polyethylene 40 litre Spill Tray  
**31-3087** Prestige polyethylene 60 litre Spill Tray  
**31-3089** Prestige polyethylene 100 litre Spill Tray



## Drum Puncture Repair

Stop the fluid leaking from the container before cleaning up a spill.

**SP-2046** 1 litre leak block Granules  
**454264** 1.0kg Tub Drum Plug ready mix  
**31-1012** 0.5kg Tub Drum Plug ready mix



## Clip Top Portable Spill Kits

Containing pads and where applicable socks along with waste bags and ties, these kits contain everything to recover a spill.

**451825** 15 Litre Chemical Spill Kit  
**496623** 15 Litre Maintenance Spill Kit  
**454256** 15 Litre Oil only Spill Kit  
**451826** 30 Litre Chemical Spill Kit  
**499624** 30 Litre Maintenance Spill Kit  
**454258** 30 Litre Oil only Spill Kit



## Static Spill Kits

This spill kit is ideal for locating near to any fluid handling sites. The drum can also act as a container to hold the used absorbent in the event to a spill. Refill absorbent are available for these kits once used.

**451828** 80 Litre Static Chemical Spill Kit  
**496625** 80 Litre Static Maintenance Spill Kit  
**454259** 80 Litre Static Oil only Spill Kit




## Wheeled portable Spill Kits

Two wheeled bins with a hinged lid allow for a significant quantity of absorbents to be delivered to the site of a spill at a moments notice.

**496628** 120 Litre Chemical Spill Kit  
**496626** 120 Litre Maintenance Spill Kit  
**454255** 120 Litre Oil only Spill Kit  
**496629** 240 Litre Chemical Spill Kit  
**496627** 240 Litre Maintenance Spill Kit  
**454257** 240 Litre Oil only Spill Kit





**What type of absorbents are best for construction sites?**

The spill kits we recommend are Oil-only (white) and contain polypropylene absorbent pads and socks. This means that they will recover only oil-based fluids. These are perfect for outdoor use when recovering fluids like solvents, fuel oils, diesel and other hydrocarbon based compounds, as they wont absorb any water at the same time. If you require spill kits to recover both oil and water based fluids at the same time see our Universal/ Maintenance spill kits. For hazardous or unknown spill types see our Chemical spill kit range.



**Things to look out for:**

Preventing spills and leaks covers a wide range of possible hazards, fluids and locations. A site survey and spill training are sensible steps to take to understanding how spills might occur and how you can mitigate or respond in the event. A site survey will also advise if you require any other types of absorbent for fluids that are water-based.



# Site infrastructure



**What the guidance or regulations say:**

- You should look after the infrastructure (e.g. pipework, secondary containment and drains) on your site to prevent groundwater pollution.



**Products that would help you meet these requirements:**

- Drain Filter Guard
- Drain Berm
- Drain Cover



**496168**

**Drain Filter Guard**

Drain Filter is a fabric membrane that is inserted into the drain once the drain cover has been removed. The drain cover is then replaced over the Drain Filter where it will capture any oil-based fluids and sediments.

**496168** Drain Filter



**496632**

**Drain Berm**

Made from flexible and sticky plastic, the Drain Bund once placed around the a drain will prevent a spill from entering into the drainage system. Use against a kerb or completely to surround a drain.

**496632** Flexible Poly Spill Berm




**496633**

**Drain Covers**

The poly drain cover is a double sided adhesive mat that can be placed directly over a drain to prevent a spill from entering into the drain network. The mechanical drain cover is more durable option.

**496633** Poly Drain Cover  
**31-1037** Mechanical Drain Cover

# Prevent groundwater pollution from solvents




**What the guidance or regulations say:**

*Most solvents are hazardous substances. Even in small quantities they cause pollution and can seriously impact the quality of groundwater making it unfit for drinking water or other uses such as food production.*

*You're breaking the law and could face imprisonment or an unlimited fine if you allow the:*


- discharge of solvents directly to groundwater
- A solvent is any substance that's designed to act on another substance as either a:
  - dissolver
  - disperser
- degreaser
- viscosity adjuster
- surface tension adjuster
- preserver
- plasticiser



**Products that would help you meet these requirements:**

- Drain Covers
- Drain Bunds
- Drain Filters


# Emergency response/spill control



**What the guidance or regulations say:**

*The emergency spill control procedure should include the following key sections:*

- Spills involving hazardous materials should first be contained to prevent spread of the material to other areas. This may involve the use of temporary diking, sand bags, dry sand, earth or proprietary booms / absorbent pads;



**Products that would help you meet these requirements:**

- Pads
- Socks
- Pillows
- Booms

## Socks

After first stopping the source of the spill the next step is to contain it. Socks are ideal for surrounding a spill to prevent it from spreading. These long absorbent tubes are flexible and will mould to the contour of the surface. Socks are usually found in most spill kits.

- 454247** 20 x Oil only socks
- 496637** 20 x Universal socks
- 496638** 20 x Chemical socks



## Pads

Individual pads are far more efficient at recovering spills than granules. Oil only pads (white) will recover just oil-based fluids without absorbing any water so are ideal for use on construction sites. If the spill is water-based then Universal (grey) pads will be required. If the spill type is unknown or potentially hazardous use Chemical (yellow) pads.

- 454246** 100 x Oil only 40cm x 50cm pads
- 496639** 100 x Universal 40cm x 50cm pads
- 451829** 100 x Chemical 40cm x 50cm pads



## Pillows

Bigger and more absorbent than pads, pillows are better for recovering larger spills. Oil only (white) will recover just oil-based fluids, whereas Universal (grey) will recover both water-based and oil-based spills. Chemical (yellow) are used to recover unknown or aggressive substances.

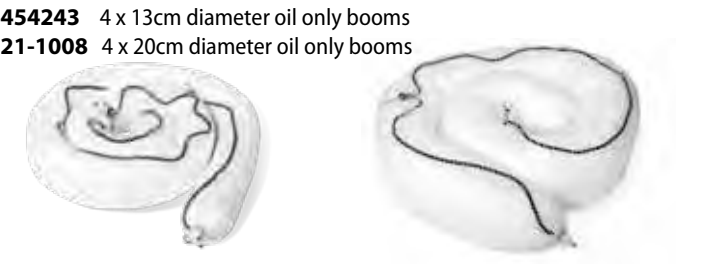
- 21-1018** 10 x Oil onlypillows
- 11-1028** 10 x Universal pillows
- 01-1013** 10 x Chemical pillows




## Booms

Oil-only booms are designed to float on water and will absorb just oil-based fluids. These booms feature a tough sock-in-net construction with a nylon rope for added strength. Hooks and eyelets 60cm in from each end allow multiple lengths to be attached together to form longer barrages.

- 454243** 4 x 13cm diameter oil only booms
- 21-1008** 4 x 20cm diameter oil only booms





**Things to look out for:**

Preventing spills and leaks covers a wide range of possible hazards, fluids and locations. A site survey and spill training are sensible

steps to take to understanding how spills might occur and how you can mitigate or respond in the event. A site survey will also advise

if you require any other types of absorbent for fluids that are water-based.

# Storing solvents



**What the guidance or regulations say:**

**Storing solvents incorrectly can lead to groundwater pollution. Make sure that storage areas are:**

- inspected regularly for spills and leaks
- secure against the risk of spills or vandalism
- above ground storage

- protected from weather conditions that could negatively affect them, e.g. freezing conditions that could crack containers or heat that could cause fires
- protected by secondary containment
- well-lit to avoid spills and make it easier to detect leaks



**Products that would help you meet these requirements:**

- Secondary Containment
- Secure Cabinet


## Storage Cabinets

Available in different sizes and all featuring a lockable door. Some feature wheels to aid mobility. Please note stands for these cabinets are not shown - please ask for details.

- 31-1159 90cm x 46cm x 180cm acid and alkali Storage Cabinet
- 31-1160 90cm x 46cm x 90cm acid and alkali Storage Cabinet
- 31-1161 46cm x 46cm x 90cm acid and alkali Storage Cabinet
- 31-1162 35cm x 30cm x 70cm acid and alkali Storage Cabinet
- 31-1166 180cm x 90cm x 46cm Pesticide & Agrochemical Cabinet
- 31-1167 90cm x 46cm x 90cm pesticide & agrochemical Cabinet
- 31-1168 46cm x 46cm x 90cm pesticide & agrochemical Cabinet
- 31-1169 35cm x 30cm x 70cm pesticide & agrochemical Cabinet
- 31-1175 90cm x 46cm x 180cm Hazardous Substance Cabinet
- 31-1176 90cm x 46cm x 90cm Hazardous Substance Cabinet
- 31-1177 46cm x 46cm x 90cm Hazardous Substance Cabinet
- 31-1178 35cm x 30cm x 70cm Hazardous Storage Cabinet
- 31-1281 120cm x 46cm x 180cm Hazardous Substance Cabinet
- 31-1282 90cm x 46cm x 70cm Hazardous Substance Cabinet
- 31-1284 90cm x 46cm x 84cm Mobile Hazardous Substance Cabinet
- 31-1285 85cm x 26cm x 57cm Hazardous Substance Wall Cabinet
- 31-1286 120cm x 46cm x 180cm acid & alkali Storage Cabinet
- 31-1287 90cm x 46cm x 70cm acid & alkali Storage Cabinet
- 31-1288 90cm x 46cm x 104cm Mobile acid & alkali Storage Cabinet
- 31-1289 90cm x 46cm x 84cm Mobile acid & alkali Storage Cabinet



# Use of solvents




**What the guidance or regulations say:**

**Make sure that areas where solvents are used on site:**

- are clearly designated with proper signage
- have impermeable flooring and chemically resistant to the solvents used
- are inside properly bunded areas

**Use protective equipment (e.g. drain covers or flexible dams) if you're unable to handle solvents or pour them away from surface water drains.**



**Products that would help you meet these requirements:**

- Drain covers (see p12)
- Drain Berm (see p12)

# Where to store solvents



**What the guidance or regulations say:**

**You can store solvents in appropriately sized and designed:**

- cans
- drums
- intermediate bulk containers (IBCs)
- above ground storage tanks

**Drums with large lids and rim clamps (e.g. 205 litre open top drums) can leak and cause spills, so you should only use these for storing viscous solvents that don't flow easily (e.g. paraffin waxes). You can use traditional metal drums with small bungs, provided they:**

- have no holes, dents or leaks
- have no visible signs of rust or metal fatigue

- are clearly marked using hazard pictograms
- haven't been used before for different types of solvent or other chemicals



**Products that would help you meet these requirements:**

- Spill Pallets


## Spill Pallets and Safety Storage Platforms

Available in different sizes to accommodate a range of drum and containers. Recessed forklift slots allow for easy movement of the spill pallets

- 31-3022 Prestige 2-drum Polyethylene Spill Pallet
- 31-3024 Prestige 4-drum polyethylene Spill Pallet
- 31-3025 Prestige 2-drum poly All weather Spill Pallet
- 31-3071 Single IBC pallet complete with grating
- 31-1267 Prestige polyethylene 205 litre Drum Funnel c/w hinged Lid
- 31-3020 Prestige 1-drum Polyethylene Spill Pallet
- 31-3023 Prestige 4 drum in-line spill pallet
- 31-3026 Prestige 4-drum polyethylene All weather Spill Pallet
- 31-3036 Prestige 2-drum poly Horizontal Racking - base unit
- 31-3037 Prestige 2-drum poly Horizontal Racking - stacking unit
- 31-3060 Prestige polyethylene Drum Transporter and Dispenser
- 31-3075 Prestige poly single IBC Spill Pallet with dispensing well 3



# Transporting solvents around a site




**What the guidance or regulations say:**

**When transporting solvents around a site you should:**

- use suitable, secure containers and other equipment (e.g. forklifts and trolleys)
- keep transportation routes clear of any sources of ignition or obstacles (e.g. drains, sumps and soakaways)

**You should also:**

- follow the Dangerous Substance and Explosive Atmosphere Regulations (DSEAR) if the solvents are highly flammable
- make sure staff are trained in manual and equipment handling
- make sure any contractors are supervised by trained staff
- assess the risk of fires from flammable liquids or their vapours under the DSEAR Regulations




**Products and services that would help you meet these requirements:**

- Drum Trolley (see above)
- Spill training (see p 10)
- Ramps (see above)



# Generators and transformers



**What the guidance or regulations say:**

**Rules applying to any of the following generators or transformers that have a connected oil supply tank with a capacity of 201 litres or more:**


- generators in daily use with a tank that supplies the generator where all of the oil from the tank is not used in 1 day
- 'stand-by' generators, which are generators kept for emergency use

**Where to position your container**

- transformer headers tanks that are connected to the transformer by a one-way feed pipe
- You must position your container somewhere that minimises the risk of it being damaged by impact, for example away from driveways, tanker turning circles and fork lift truck routes.
- Or you must make sure that any impact will not damage the container, for example by placing barriers or bollards around the tank.


**You do not need to follow these guidelines if you store any of these types of waste oil but you should check if you need an environmental permit:**

- oil for turbines and hydraulic oil




**Products and services that would help you meet these requirements:**

- Spill Training - Contact us now for more information about this +44 (0) 121 567 4111
- Free Site Survey - Contact us now for more information about this service we provide +44 (0)121 567 4111



# Remote filling




**What the guidance or regulations say:**

**If you fill your container via a remote fill pipe you must use a drip tray to catch any oil that may be spilled during the delivery.**


**A remote fill is when you fill your container at a fill point that's outside the secondary containment**

**(the bund or drip tray designed to capture leaks from the container). During a remote fill, the tank might not be visible from the fill point.**



**Products that would help you meet these requirements:**

- Free Site Survey - Contact us now for more information about this service we provide +44 (0)121 567 4111
- Drip Tray



# Carry out your emergency procedures




**What the guidance or regulations say:**

**As part of your emergency procedure you should:**

- tell staff about the incident
- evacuate the site safely
- tell your emergency contacts
- notify and evacuate any properties affected in the surrounding area


**Your PIRP should set out how you'll:**

- handle both small and large spills
- assess priorities in an emergency
- make sure staff know their responsibilities in an emergency
- safely handle and dispose of any waste caused by the incident
- clean and decontaminate personal protective equipment
- dispose of fire-fighting water




**Services that would help you meet these requirements:**

- Spill Training - Contact us now for more information about this +44 (0) 121 567 4111
- Free Site Survey - Contact us now for more information about this service we provide +44 (0)121 567 4111




# Report an environmental incident



**What the guidance or regulations say:**


**Call the Environment Agency incident hotline to report:**

- damage or danger to the natural environment
- pollution to water or land



**Information that would help you meet these requirements:**

- Environment Agency call 0800 80 70 60



# Sorting, storing and Disposal of commercial waste



**What the guidance or regulations say:**

**You must store waste safely and securely. To do this:**

- store waste in a secure place
- use suitable containers that will stop waste escaping
- label containers clearly with the type of waste they contain
- use covers to stop waste blowing away

**You have extra responsibilities if you're storing hazardous waste.**

- use waterproof covers if rain could cause contaminated run-off or prevent the waste from being reused
- they can be reused more easily
- you can complete the waste transfer note correctly

**Store different types of waste separately, so that:**

- they do not contaminate each other

**Your responsibilities**

**You must:**

- keep waste to a minimum by doing everything you reasonably can to prevent, reuse, recycle or recover waste (in that order) - get help to do this
- sort and store waste safely and securely
- complete a waste transfer note for each load of waste that leaves your premises
- check if your waste carrier is registered to dispose of waste
- not allow the waste carrier to dispose of your waste illegally (and report them to Crimestoppers if they do)

**You have extra responsibilities if you're dealing with hazardous waste.**

**What counts as business waste:**

**Any waste that comes from a commercial activity is business waste. Business waste also includes any waste that comes from:**

- construction
- demolition

**Disposing of your own waste**

**You must register as a waste carrier if you want to dispose of your own waste regularly. Apply to register in:**

- England
- Wales

**Depending on what you're doing, you may also need to apply for a waste permit.**

**For each load of non-hazardous waste you move off your premises, you need a waste transfer note or a document with the same information, such as an invoice.**

**Register online to:**


- fill in a waste transfer note for a single load of waste
- create a season ticket for a series of loads

**Your business and the business taking your waste both need to:**

1. Fill in the sections of the waste transfer note that apply to you.
2. Sign it.
3. Keep a copy for 2 years.


**4. Show it to an enforcement officer from your local council or the Environment Agency if asked.**

**You must include enough information to help the business taking your waste to handle and dispose of it safely.**



**Services that would help you meet these requirements:**

- Free Site Survey - Contact us now for more information about this service we provide +44 (0)121 567 4111





## Notes



## Acknowledgements

Quoted guidance and regulations text and case studies are from the Environment Agency and from the [www.gov.uk](http://www.gov.uk) website.

## Contacts for more information

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Unit 1, Britannia Park  
Trident Park  
Wednesbury  
WS10 7XB  
[www.leebrothers.co.uk](http://www.leebrothers.co.uk) e: [sales@leebrothers.co.uk](mailto:sales@leebrothers.co.uk)  
Telephone: 0121 567 4111

## Local Council

Contact the local Council in the area the development is located

## Health and Safety Executive

Visit: <http://www.hse.gov.uk>







**Construction sector** spill equipment choices made simpler



**Pollution risks** and how to deal with them



**Guidance and regulations** that apply to the construction sector



**Choosing absorbents** for different spill types and locations



**Things to look out for** with construction spill hazards

