

Storage of Liquid Materials in Portable Containers

This activity applies to you if you store any type of liquids including but not limited to chemicals, waste oils, solvents, or petroleum products in portable containers (such as drums). This activity covers permanent storage as well as temporary storage areas at temporary sites. Spills and drips of these liquids, or overtopping of storage containers, can contribute toxic compounds, oils and greases, metals, abnormal pH, and nutrients to stormwater runoff.

This activity does not apply to businesses that are permitted by the Washington State Department of Ecology to treat, store, or dispose of dangerous wastes. Storage of reactive, combustible, or flammable liquids must comply with the King County Fire Code.


MINIMUM REQUIREMENTS

The following BMPs, or equivalent measures, methods, or practices are required if you are engaged in the storage of liquid materials in portable containers:

- 1** Place tight-fitting lids on all containers.
- 2** Enclose or cover the containers where they are stored. The local fire district must be consulted for limitations on clearance of roof covers over containers used to store flammable materials.
- 3** Raise the containers off the ground by using a spill containment pallet or similar method that has provisions for spill control.


OR

Contain the material in such a manner that if the container leaks or spills, the contents will not discharge, flow, or be washed into the storm drainage system, surface water, or groundwater.

 See BMP Info Sheet 5 in Chapter 5 for information on containment options.

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Place drip pans or absorbent materials beneath all mounted container taps, and at all potential drip and spill locations during filling and unloading of containers. Any collected liquids or soiled absorbent materials must be reused, recycled, or properly disposed of.

 See BMP Info Sheet 2 in Chapter 5 for information on disposal options.

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Required Routine Maintenance:

- Store and maintain appropriate spill cleanup materials near the container storage area, in a location known to all. Ensure that employees are familiar with the site's spill plan and/or proper spill cleanup procedures.
- Sweep and clean the storage area as needed if it is paved. Do not hose down the area to the storm drainage system.
- Check containers (and any containment sumps) daily for leaks and spills. Replace containers that are leaking, corroded, or otherwise deteriorating. If the liquid chemicals are corrosive, containers made of compatible materials must be used instead of metal drums. New or secondary containers must be labeled with the product name and hazards.
- Collect all spilled liquids and properly dispose of them.
- Inspect spill control devices routinely (daily/weekly) and remove separated floatables.

 See BMP Info Sheet 2 in Chapter 5 for information on disposal options.

For more information or assistance in implementing these best management practices, contact the King County Department of Natural Resources and Parks Water and Land Resources Division at 206-296-1900.

Reader Note: The above requirements are the minimum required BMPs. If these BMPs fail to prevent discharges to the storm drainage system, you will be asked to take additional measures to correct the continued pollution discharges.