



HSE BULLETIN

Issue 52, Dec 2021

Spill Prevention

Preventing spills is vital to protecting the environment, avoiding unnecessary regulatory fines, and for preventing workplace injuries and illnesses. The best approach to prevent spills is through exercising proactive behavior to ensure they never occur. This HSE bulletin identifies best practices that can assist in preventing and controlling potential spills. Proper planning and safe handling of chemicals will contribute to a safe working environment, and if not prevent a spill, will provide for safe action in handling it.



Spill Prevention Through Preparation

To properly prepare for a work task involving the potential spill of chemicals, an individual should review the Safety Data Sheet (SDS) for each chemical being used. The SDS will identify vital information needed, such as proper storage, possible chemical reactions, and what personal protective equipment (PPE) is needed for handling the chemical. All employees working with chemicals should be trained on the chemicals they use, Hazard Communication Program requirements, and the personal protective equipment they are to use. Never proceed with a work task if hazards are left unaddressed.

Utilizing Secondary Containments

One of the best methods to prevent fluids from reaching the ground is to utilize secondary containments. Chemicals, equipment using fuel, circulating equipment, and hose connections should all be staged in secondary containments. Specific safeguards must be maintained to keep containments free from compromise. Spare containments or patch kits should be readily available at the worksite. Containment walls must be installed correctly, and sides should be free of collapse. All hardware designed to install containments must be used correctly and in their entirety.

7 PILLARS OF SPILL MANAGEMENT

