

WATER

information sheet 02

STORMWATER POLLUTION

PREVENTION



STORM

What can you do to prevent stormwater pollution from your business activities?

Preparing your workplace

- Train your staff to prevent stormwater pollution.
- Mark the stormwater entry points on your site so they are not used for waste disposal.
- Make sure waste bins and skips have secure lids which remain closed when not in use and the base and walls are permanently sealed so they do not leak.
- Do not allow water to flow to stormwater drains from machinery, chemical storage areas, wash down bays and from areas where spills might occur. Use roofing to minimise rain runoff, and channels or bunds (containment barriers) that stop polluted water getting to stormwater drains.
- Use bunds or channels to stop rain from relatively clean areas (for example, carpark and driveways) from running through dirty areas (for example, work areas). Clean water that flows across a dirty area increases the amount of wastewater needing treatment while dirty water pollutes clean areas.
- Do not let water from washing and discharge points, oil traps, filters and separators run to stormwater drains. Run them to the sewer according to your industrial waste permit from the Water Corporation or have the wastewater removed by a licensed liquid waste contractor.

Keeping your workplace clean

- A clean site is part of the job for all staff. Give floor and outside areas special attention by dry sweeping and recycling or disposing the swept rubbish into your waste bins. Do not hose your outdoor surfaces into the gutter or drain.
- Chemicals, paints, oils and any hazardous materials that could wash off site must be stored undercover in a bunded area with an impermeable floor to stop them getting into stormwater drains.
- Wash vehicles, engines and machinery parts in areas that drain to proper waste facilities.
- Keep machinery and equipment maintained to reduce the risk of leaks and regularly cleaned so that any leaks can be seen quickly.
- Use spill trays under work areas where a spill could occur.
- Control airborne sprays so they cannot land on surfaces where rain will wash them down the drain.
- Minimise the waste stored on your site by looking for opportunities to reduce, reuse and recycle. Check all containers regularly for leaks and safe storage.

Do not let water from washing and discharge points, oil traps, filters and separators run to stormwater drains



Minimising the risk of accident

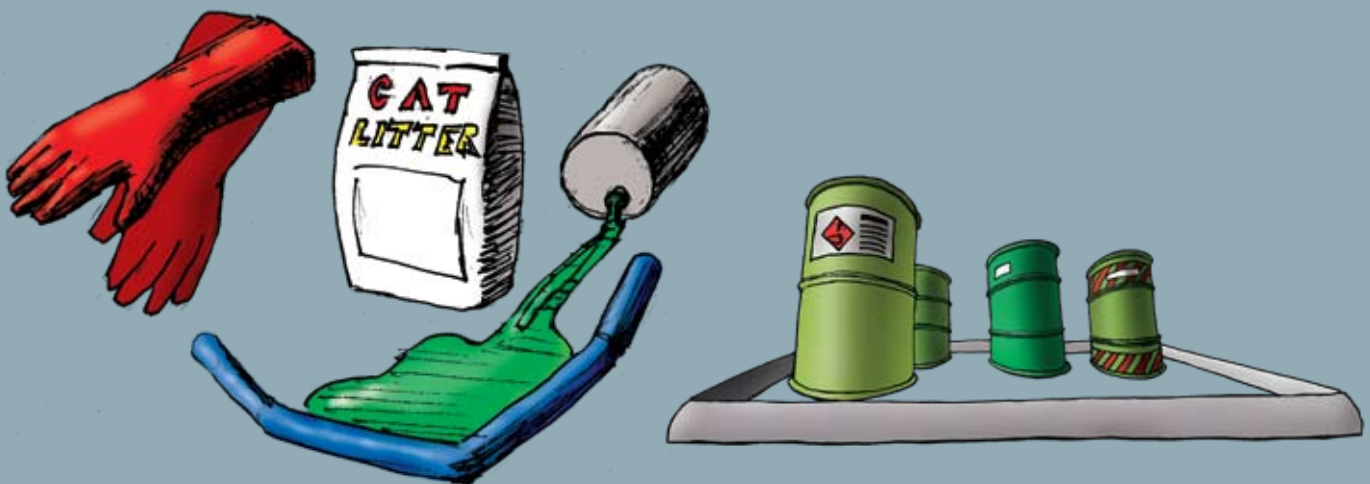
- Safe handling and storage to prevent pollution is part of the job for all staff.
- Make a plan to deal with spills including procedures for safety, clean up and who to call in an emergency. Ensure the spill plan is accessible to all staff and they know what to do in the case of a chemical spill.
- Do not hose spills down the drain – if the spill gets into the stormwater system you may be prosecuted for pollution.
- Get a spill kit and train staff to use it. A spill kit should include:
 - protective clothing;
 - absorbing and cleaning agents such as sand, sawdust, absorbents pads/pellets, 'kitty litter', mops, brooms and rags;
 - portable bunds ('sausage' barriers similar to sandbags) to direct spills or wash-water away from drains to clean-up areas; and
 - shovels, brooms and dustpans to sweep up solid or powder spills.



For further information contact:

- Your local council or shire Environmental Health Services department.
- Your relevant industry association or local business support group.
- The Perth Region NRM for your local Industry Support Officer on telephone (08) 9374 3333.
- The Department of Environment and Conservation on telephone (08) 6467 5000.

Give floor and outside areas special attention by dry sweeping and recycling or disposing the swept rubbish into your waste bins



Check out other Information Sheets in this series.

These information sheets have been produced by Perth Region NRM in consultation with our partners.
Call (08) 9374 3333 or check out our website at www.perthregionnrm.com



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