



Storing Hazardous Materials

WHY BE CONCERNED?

If hazardous materials and wastes are not properly stored, pollutants can leak from stockpiles and containers and run out onto the ground. From there, pollutants can filter through to the ground water table or be washed by rainwater into a lake, river or stream.

Reduce risk to the environment by reducing the amount of materials and wastes kept in storage and properly store all materials.

REGULATORY REQUIREMENTS

Make sure that all storage practices conform to federal, state, and local requirements and that all necessary permits have been obtained.

Agencies to contact for more information include the State Fire Marshal, Michigan Department of Environment Great Lakes and Energy, Washtenaw County's Pollution Prevention Program, and your township's building and fire departments.

Designing Work Areas to Contain Leaks and Spills

Spills are more common in some work places, 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 on when and how to use them.



Designing Storage Areas to Contain Leaks and Spills

We know that spills happen. A little planning can go a long way in managing spills after they occur. Preparing a proper storage area to house your materials can save you time and money in a spill.

If possible, convert an existing room into a containment area. This is a low-cost approach to safe storage. Prevent runoff from entering or leaving the area by making sure that cracks in floors and corners are completely sealed. Also be sure that door sills are high enough to contain any materials that could spill.

If the containment area is located outdoors, construct an impermeable berm around it to keep spills confined.

Liquids escaping from punctures must also be contained. Make sure that your storage area is designed in a way that will prevent any liquids from leaving the area.

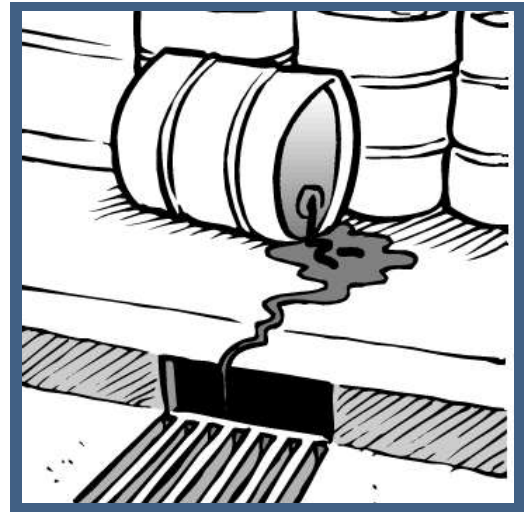


CHOOSING SAFE STORAGE CONTAINERS

- Storage containers should be in good condition and lined with a material that won't deteriorate. Outdoor storage containers should be water-tight, rodent-proof, and protected from tampering.
- Keep products in their original containers. If that is not possible, clearly label containers and protect the labels from weathering.
- Never mix different types of materials or wastes in a single container. This can create excess hazardous waste, prevent recycling, and greatly increase disposal costs.

UNUSED MATERIALS

- Regularly inspect your storage areas to make sure that unused materials do not accumulate. Identify and properly dispose of unusable materials.



STORAGE MANAGEMENT

Potential pollutants should be stored indoors, unless doing so will increase risks to health and safety. Indoor storage is preferred because it prevents containers from weathering, keeps rain and snow out, and prevents spills directly onto the ground.

If materials must be stored outside, design a covered, paved area that will contain leaks and spills. If it's impossible to cover and pave outdoor storage areas, place each primary container within a larger, leak-proof receptacle.

Managing Non-Hazardous Stockpiles

- If possible, build a permanent covered area for stockpiles. Alternatively, place stockpiles on a paved surface and keep them covered when not actively in use with plastic sheeting. Secure the sheeting with weighted tires or sandbags. Move temporary stockpiles to a permanent storage place as soon as possible.
- Assign someone to periodically sweep the area around stockpiles to prevent any materials that escape from washing away with stormwater.

Inspecting Your Dumpster Area

- Dumpsters are a common source of pollutants, especially when they contain damp or oily wastes. (Liquids should not be put into a dumpster).
- Place dumpsters on concrete surfaces and keep their lids tightly closed. If possible, build a cover over dumpsters.
- Assign someone to regularly clean up the ground around dumpsters. If a dumpster leaks, immediately repair or replace it.