



Preventing Spills

HOW TO STORE MATERIALS SO SPILLS DON'T HAPPEN



No one wants to face a spill. And when the spilled materials are hazardous, you can run into higher clean-up costs, possible long-term liability, worker safety issues and other problems. This fact sheet provides basic information about how to collect and store materials – especially chemicals – in order to prevent spills*.

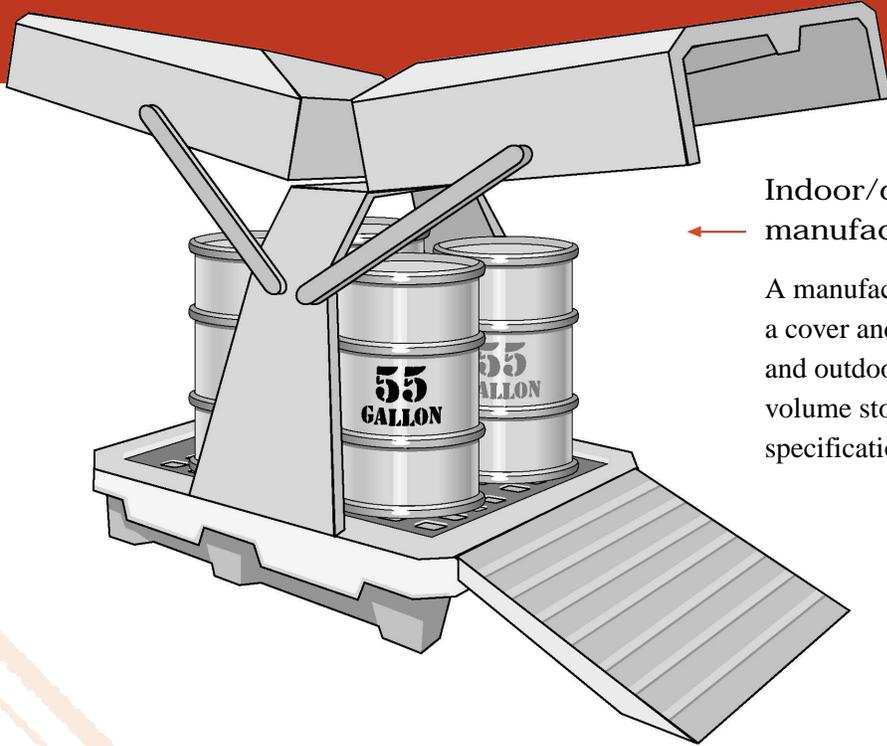
An accumulation area is a special area set aside for storing hazardous materials and wastes. It doesn't need to be large, but it does need to be safely managed. In your accumulation area try to:

- Restrict access to a few well-trained people. Make sure they understand health and safety and waste management regulations.
- Keep wastes away from traffic patterns.
- Store wastes away from bay doors to prevent spills to the outside environment.
- Don't store hazardous materials near drains.
- Store hazardous materials according to compatibility.
- Mark the site clearly with a sign that reads "Hazardous Waste (or Product) Accumulation Area."
- Have a spill kit on hand with appropriate absorbents and neutralizing materials and a plan for how to use them.
- Post emergency phone numbers in case of spills or accidents.
- Store items on an impermeable surface, not on dirt or gravel areas.
- If you store items outside, make sure the area is covered and in a secured area.



* Businesses that are "regulated generators" of hazardous waste can use this fact sheet as a starting point but should contact the Washington State Department of Ecology for more information about requirements for storing and managing hazardous waste.

Indoor and Outdoor



← Indoor/outdoor
manufactured storage system

A manufactured drum and container storage unit with a cover and false bottom can be used for both indoor and outdoor storage. The number of containers and/or volume stored should not exceed the manufacturer's specifications.

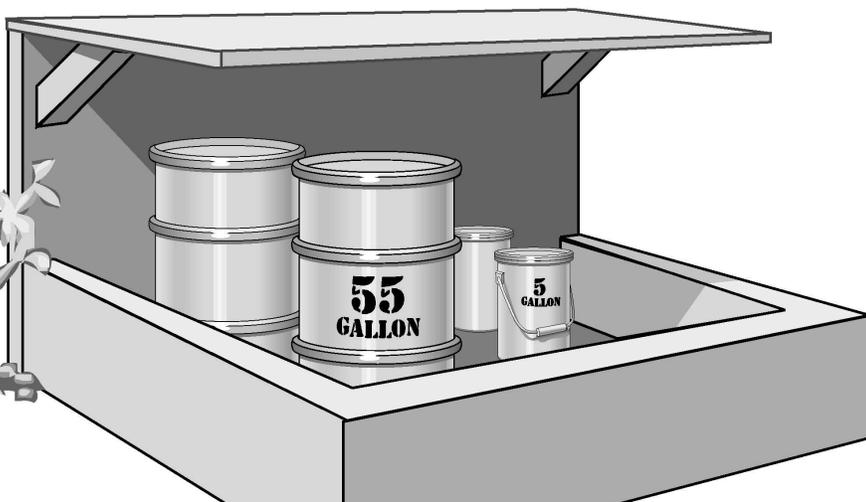


↑ Indoor storage systems

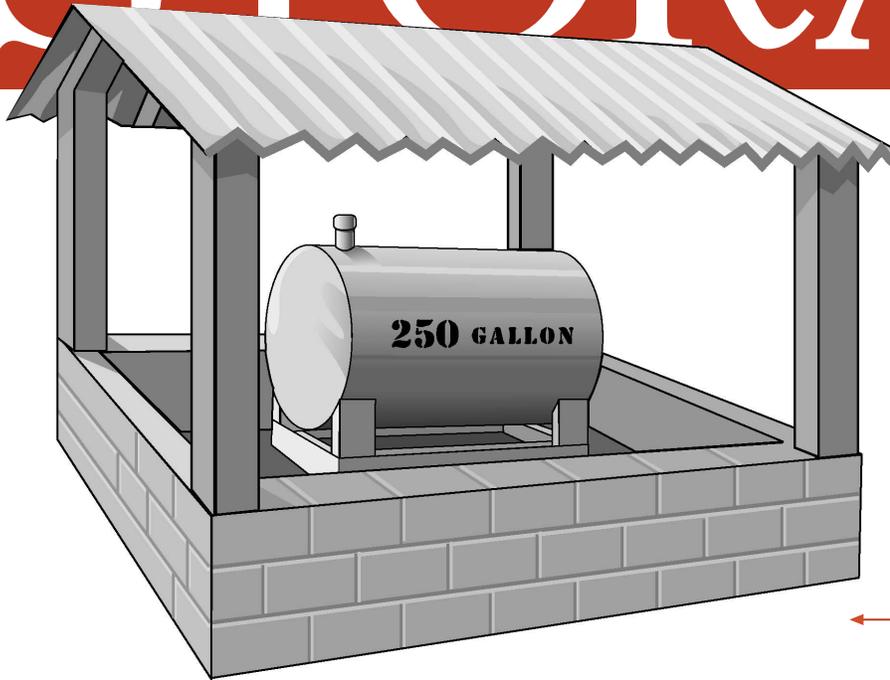
A manufactured system with a false bottom for indoor use can provide secondary containment for spilled materials. The volume of material (or number of containers) stored should not exceed manufacturer's specifications. Other items, such as wash tubs, horse troughs, and empty 55-gallon drums, can be used for secondary containment as long as the container will hold a sufficient volume and is chemically compatible with the materials it holds.

Outdoor container and tank storage

Outdoor storage areas should be covered and must hold 110 percent of the volume of the largest container or 10 percent of the total volume of all containers, whichever is greater. Water and other fluids should not accumulate inside the secondary containment berm. Before building an outdoor storage unit, check with the local fire department and other local agencies for code requirements.



STORAGE

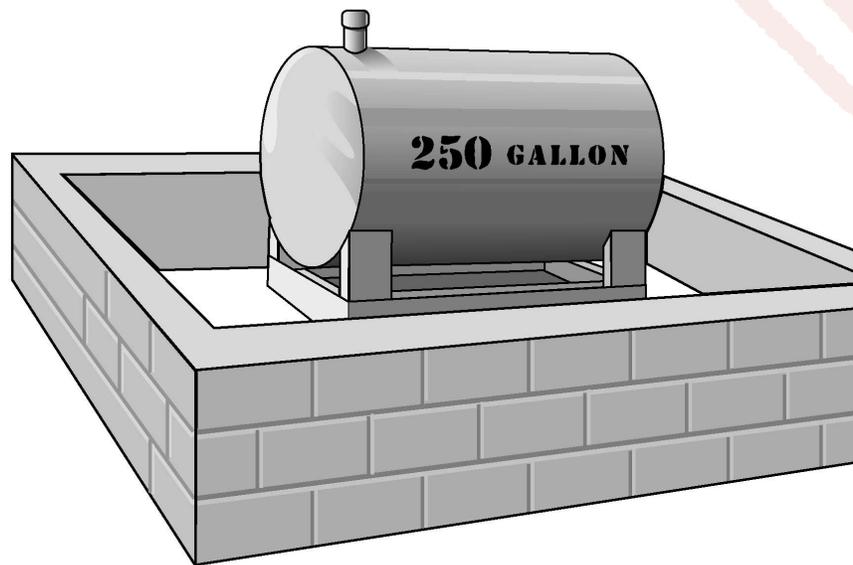


Outdoor tank storage

Another type of outdoor tank storage with secondary containment is illustrated here. It must be covered and hold 110 percent of the volume of the tank being stored. Water and other fluids should not accumulate inside the secondary containment berm. Before building an outdoor storage unit, check with the local fire department and other local agencies for code requirements.

Indoor tank storage →

A concrete berm can serve as a secondary containment area for tanks stored indoors. The berm must hold 110 percent of the volume of the tank being stored. (In some cases, fire department regulations may require higher capacity containment areas, so before building the storage unit, check local fire department codes.)



information

For more information about storing your hazardous materials call:

- Business Waste Line, Local Hazardous Waste Management Program 206-296-3976
- Washington State Department of Ecology, Northwest Regional Office 425-649-7000
- Puget Sound Clean Air Agency 206-343-8800
- Washington State Department of Labor and Industries 206-281-5470
- Your local sewer and fire districts, storm water utility and health department.

CONTAINERS

- Make sure your containers have well-fitting lids that are kept closed.
- Inspect containers at least weekly for rust, bulges, dents or leaks. Replace defective containers or put them in an isolated secondary containment storage area.
- Make sure containers are compatible with their contents. For example, don't put acid in unlined metal drums or put solvents in plastic drums. The container that the product came in may be suitable for storing waste material if the container is in good condition and labeled correctly.
- Properly label containers of waste.

SECONDARY CONTAINMENT

Containers, drums, or above ground storage tanks containing hazardous materials should be put into secondary containment to catch possible spills. The secondary container can be a portable plastic tub, metal drum, pallet with a containerized base, bermed and paved area, or dead-end sump and slanted floor. As you set up your own secondary containment system, try to:

- Use separate secondary containers for wastes that are incompatible.
- Make sure that the secondary containment has the capacity to hold 110 percent of the volume of the largest container or 10 percent of the volume of all the containers, whichever is greater.
- If located outdoors, cover the secondary containment area to keep out water.
- Make sure construction materials are compatible with the products or wastes held in secondary containment.
- If water or other fluid accumulates inside the storage area, drain immediately.
- Conduct analytical testing of water or other fluids, if required to determine proper disposal.

RELATED ISSUES

- Local codes: All businesses that use hazardous materials should be aware of local fire codes. There may be additional fire, storm water or other local and city ordinances that apply to you. Contact appropriate agencies.
- Reducing the amount of waste you produce and store reduces your potential liability and cost.
- Oil/water separators are not designed to manage spilled hazardous materials.
- Incompatible substances: Substances that produce heat, pressure, fire, violent reaction or toxic fumes and gases when mixed are considered incompatible. Don't put material into a container that previously held an incompatible substance unless the container has been thoroughly washed (triple rinsed).
- Fire hazards: Ignitable/flammable wastes have a flash point of less than 140 degrees F. You may need special flammable storage lockers for these materials. For detailed information on these wastes, refer to WAC 173-303-090 and your local fire department or district.



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