

Storing liquid waste

Storing liquid waste safely helps protect the environment and your business. This fact sheet will help you ensure that liquid wastes are stored in an environmentally safe manner.

Minimise the risk to the environment

- Store liquid waste in a bunded and covered area.
- Where possible, minimise the number of liquid waste containers stored at your premises – the fewer the better.

Select a suitable area for the storage of liquid waste

- Consider the type and volume of liquid waste to be stored.
- Identify the type and regularity of access to the waste storage area.
- Ensure that no stormwater drains are located in the proposed storage area.
- Where possible, minimise the distance needed to move waste containers on site (for instance between the storage area and where wastes are generated).
- Select a location where activities (such as forklift movements) are minimised.
- Consider the sensitivity of the surrounding environment when selecting a storage area.

Setting up a liquid waste storage area

- Clearly label the designated liquid waste storage area and identify the contents stored.
- Use bunds that will contain spills and leaks from liquid waste containers and aid clean-up operations.
- Ensure that barriers (e.g. floors and bunds) used in storage areas are impervious and resistant to any chemical reaction by the substances that may be stored inside them.
- Use spill containment systems that minimise the likelihood of drums tipping over and causing a spill outside the designated containment area.
- Clearly label all drums and other vessels used to store liquid waste. The label must identify the contents of the drum or storage vessel.
- Ensure that bunds are large enough to contain at least 100% of the volume of the largest tank.



Store liquid waste containers within bund walls. Bunds trap leaks and spills and make clean-up operations easier.



Don't stack liquid waste drums above bund walls. If a drum tips over its contents may not be contained.

- If waste is stored in drums (or other small containers) ensure that the bunded area is at least 25% of the total volume of the liquid waste stored.
- For flammable liquid waste, consider whether the bund capacity needs to be increased to allow for the capture of fire water.
- Ensure that waste storage areas have a roof to stop rain entering the bunded area. Incorporate a 12° vertical overhang to help stop rain entering from the side.
- Design bunds so that it's easy to move liquid waste containers by forklift and/or pump out the contents of containers.

- Don't store liquid waste in drums or containers that are rusted, dented or show signs of deterioration.
- Don't stack or elevate drums above bund walls. There is a risk that in the event of a drum being tipped over, the contents will not be contained within the bund.
- Don't install drain valves for bunded areas. Bund waters should be contained and tested prior to disposing to a lawful facility.
- Don't use spill containment pallets for permanent or long-term storage of drums or for storage vessels that contain liquid wastes.



Don't store liquid wastes in drums or containers that are rusted, dented or show signs of deterioration.



If liquid waste containers are stacked or stored above or without bund walls, spills and leaks will not be contained.

Take care with liquid wastes ...

Businesses that handle liquid waste in a way that threatens the environment can be issued with a legal notice to take action, fined and/or can face court action.

Stormwater flows directly to local waterways ... remember the drain is just for rain.

For more information visit the DEC website:
www.environment.nsw.gov.au/mao/bundingspill.htm

