

# Spills of Hazardous Materials for Retailers

*“Accidental mixing of spilled chemicals may result in violent reactions that can release toxic fumes or start fires.”*

## The Problem

Hazardous products such as pesticides, solvents, concrete cleaners, strippers, lye, and fuels can cause retailers big problems if they spill or arrive in damaged containers. Make sure your business is prepared for a spill to avoid injury to workers, customers, or the environment. If an outside spill occurs that impacts air, land, or water, you need to immediately contact both 911 and Washington Department of Ecology (DOE) at 360-407-6373.

## Be Prepared

Know the hazardous products you sell and where they are in the store. Manufacturers of hazardous products are required to supply you with Material Safety Data Sheets (MSDSs). These information sheets provide details about chemical ingredients, chemicals that should be stored separately, how to protect yourself if there's a spill, and more. Keep MSDSs easy to reach in case you ever have to clean up a spill.

## Protect Yourself from Spills

Have at least one spill kit on-hand and be familiar with its use. You can buy items or whole kits from several suppliers, such as Lab Safety (800-356-0783; [www.labsafety.com](http://www.labsafety.com)), Pig (800-458-4647; [www.newpig.com](http://www.newpig.com)), or Conney (800-356-9100; [www.conney.com](http://www.conney.com)).

A typical spill kit contains:

- Absorbent pads for petroleum (oil only) and other products (universal)
- Plastic tubs or other containers with lids for packing (“overpacks”)
- Disposable shop towels or heavy paper towels
- Goggles
- Permanent marker for labeling
- Chemically resistant gloves and boots
- Heavy-duty (3mil) plastic bags
- Absorbent material for spills (shop dry, floor sweep, kitty litter, sawdust)
- Acid neutralizers
- Large self-stick labels
- Apron



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FOR MORE INFORMATION, CALL 360-786-5457. TDD LINE FOR THE HEARING IMPAIRED, 754-2933.



Many hazardous waste haulers supply spill kits and spill response materials. See the back of this fact sheet for a partial list of haulers.

Write up a procedure for responding to spills, and post it near the kit. Make sure all employees know the procedure. One person should be responsible for overseeing clean ups and for training employees. Keep a record of who has received clean-up training and when. For a fact sheet on writing a spill plan, call 360-786-5457.

## If You Have A Spill

Know the hazards of the spilled product (ignitable, reactive, corrosive, toxic) so you can protect yourself and respond correctly. Check the MSDS if you are unfamiliar with the product.

<b>Hazard Characteristic</b>	<b>Typical Products</b>
Ignitable (flammable)	Fuels, solvents, alcohols, strippers, brush cleaners, resins, adhesives, epoxies, oil base paints, stains, sealers, coatings.
Corrosive	Concrete products and swimming pool products. Lye and some plumbing products.
Toxic (poisons)	All insecticides, herbicides, rodenticides, fungicides. Other materials that have toxic properties.
Reactive (incompatible)	Bleach, iodine or chlorine disinfectants, peroxides (hardeners for fiberglass, plastic fillers, etc).

## To Contain and Clean Up A Spill

- 1) Assess whether you can clean up the spill without endangering the safety of your employees, customers, or the environment. If not, call for emergency assistance (911), contractors, and the Department of Ecology spill response team at 360-407-6373. Keep a list of local contractors that specialize in materials you handle.
- 2) Bring the spill kit to the scene.
- 3) Consult the spilled product's MSDS for how to clean up and dispose of the material.
- 4) If the spilled materials are ignitable or reactive, take steps to avoid contact with flames, sparks, and other sources of ignition.
- 5) Use proper protective equipment – chemically resistant gloves and boots, goggles, apron, etc.

- 6) Assure adequate ventilation for those doing the clean up. If not possible, hire a contractor.
- 7) Keep the spill from spreading by using absorbent materials.
- 8) Block public access to the site to prevent exposures or dispersion.
- 9) Carefully absorb, scoop, or otherwise collect the spilled materials.
- 10) Place spilled materials, damaged containers, and used absorbent rags, pads, or other absorbent material into a sturdy container that has a lid (such as a 5 gallon plastic bucket, large resealable tubs, or totes with lids).
- 11) Label the container with product name (i.e. “Stop-Plant Weed-Killer”), hazard characteristic, and the date of the spill.
- 12) Place the container into proper storage (see below) and arrange for disposal. Dispose of the material as soon as possible.
- 13) If your shoes or clothing are contaminated, clean or remove them at the site of the spill. Do not track spilled materials away from the spill site. Wash your hands and face after cleaning up spilled materials.
- 14) Whenever in doubt about how to proceed with a clean up, call Ecology or a contractor for help.

## **Storage of Spilled Materials**

Containers of spilled materials should be stored in a secured, ventilated, dry area away from sources of heat, sparks, and water. Consult the product’s MSDS for chemicals or products that should not be stored next to containers of spilled materials.

**Never** store the following products together:

- acids with bases
- acids with fertilizers (note that “weed & feed” is a fertilizer)
- bases with fertilizers
- flammable liquids with acids or bases
- ammonia or other cleaners with bleach

***Accidental mixing of these chemicals may result in violent reactions that can release toxic gases/fumes or start fires.***

Items that are in the same hazard class, such as flammable liquids, can be stored in the same area. Acids can be stored in the same area; bases or caustics can be stored in the same area; pesticides can be stored in the same area. Label everything!

## Disposal of Wastes

Wastes that result from spills of hazardous materials must be disposed of as hazardous waste. Thurston County operates a hazardous waste collection site at HazoHouse for small businesses. To dispose of waste at this site, businesses must apply for approval from the Thurston County Hazardous Waste Program. To receive an application, call (360) 786-5457 Monday-Friday, 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Hazardous waste specialists will review your application to determine whether your business is eligible. Applications are reviewed quickly. An appointment is scheduled, generally within a few days to a week, for a time when your business can bring waste to the disposal facility. The facility is at HazoHouse, at the Thurston County Waste and Recovery Center, 2418 Hogum Bay Road in Lacey.

## Hazardous Waste Haulers

Many private firms also serve Puget Sound. The following is a partial list of waste haulers serving this area. A complete list of hazardous waste haulers in Washington State can be found on the Internet at: <http://www.ecy.wa.gov/biblio/98412.html> (see Section 3).

Airo Services, Inc.	253-383-4916	Philip Services	800-228-7872
Basin Oil	800-439-2948	Phoenix Environmental	888-475-0116
Emerald Petroleum Services	206-832-3000	Safety Kleen	800-669-5948
Envirotech Systems	800-922-9395	Sol Pro	253-627-4822
FBN Enterprises	425-466-9642	Spencer Environmental	800-286-0896
Foss Environmental	800-337-7455	Van Waters & Rogers	800-562-4860

## For More Information

For answers to your questions about spill plans, training, or waste disposal options, please contact the Business Pollution Prevention Program at 360-786-5457, Monday through Friday, 8-5. The TDD line for the hearing impaired is 360-754-2933. Thurston County Business Pollution Prevention Program has a number of fact sheets that can be requested by calling the office or viewed on our website: <http://www.co.thurston.wa.us/health/ehrp/hwaste.html>.