

Liquid Wastes – Storage & Handling

Storage

Liquid wastes and liquid contaminants cannot be allowed to reach stormwater drains, sewer drains, natural waterways or soil. To prevent pollution, store liquids (both in new and waste form):

- In sealed containers that are free of leakage
- On sealed ground
- Undercover
- In bunded areas
- In areas that drain to an oil water separator
- With labels identifying the substance.

For more information please see the environmental information guides; “Bunding”, “Liquid Wastes – Characterisation” and “Oil Water Separators”.

Storage Areas

When selecting an area or multiple areas to store liquids in, there are a number of factors to consider:

- Take into account the volume and types of liquids requiring storage (avoid stacking containers on top of each other or raising above bunding)
- Assess the frequency at which the liquids need to be accessed
- Make sure the area does not drain to a stormwater drain
- Try to minimise the distance that liquids are transported
- Keep the storage away from high activity areas when those activities could potentially damage liquid containers or cause containers to spill.

CONSIDER: The DECC and TAMS have the authority to issue a legal notice to take action or fine businesses that handle liquid wastes in a way that threatens the environment. Businesses can also face court action.

Responsible storage of liquid wastes

- Sealed and not leaking
- On sealed ground
- Undercover
- Bunded
- Drain to separator
- Labelled

Handling

There are several liquids used in the automotive industry that can damage the environment and create unsafe workplaces. Thorough identification of “danger areas” is required to increase workplace awareness.

Danger areas are:

- Liquid waste storage areas
- Loading and unloading areas
- Liquid production areas
- Separator systems.

These areas need regular attention to ensure that they are hazard-free, well maintained and not polluting stormwater drains.

When handling these oils and chemicals the following principles should be adopted:

- All repairs, servicing and painting should be conducted inside the workshop
- Loading and unloading should be supervised
- Separators should be checked regularly for leaking and serviced/cleaned regularly as per manufacturer’s recommendations
- Spills should be cleaned up immediately following the business’ Spill Management Plan
- Material Safety Data Sheets (MSDS) should be kept onsite for every chemical used, be made available to all staff and referred to for advice on storage, usage and disposal.

For more information please see the environmental information guide; “Spill Management”.

Compliance

It is illegal to dump liquid wastes. The maximum penalty for dumping liquid waste that harms the environment is \$5 000 000 or a seven year jail sentence.

Supplying false or misleading information about waste is a maximum penalty of \$250 000 and causing waste to be transported to a place that cannot receive it is a maximum penalty of \$1 000 000.

Key contacts

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ACTewAGL (ACT)

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www.actewagl.com.au

Department of Environment &
Climate Change (NSW)

131 555

www.environment.nsw.gov.au

Emergency Services

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Hunter Water (NSW)

1300 657 657

www.hunterwater.com.au

Local Council Contacts (NSW)

www.dlg.nsw.gov.au

Sydney Water (NSW)

13 20 92

www.sydneywater.com.au

Territory & Municipal Services (ACT)

13 22 81

www.tams.act.gov.au

WorkCover (ACT)

02 6205 0200

www.workcover.act.gov.au

WorkCover (NSW)

13 10 50

www.workcover.nsw.gov.au

Important Disclaimer

These Information Guides have been developed to assist MTA NSW and MTA ACT members to better manage their environmental impacts. However it remains the responsibility of the individual business to determine the extent to which various laws and best practice guidelines apply to them and to take appropriate steps to achieve compliance. Though every possible effort has been made, MTA NSW accepts no responsibility for the accuracy of the information.