Outside Container Storage and Waste Disposal

This BMP applies to existing facilities* that have containers located outdoors and used to temporarily store materials. The following practices are recommended to prevent contact between container and stormwater runoff.

1. Install a paved floor with curbing to contain spills of materials and contaminated stormwater. The curb should be high enough to contain the volume of the largest tank plus additional volume for rainfall accumulation. A reasonable approximation is 110% or more of the largest storage tank, depending on the amount of rainfall reaching the site.

2. Cover the storage area or bring the containers indoors. The containers should have covers to prevent rainfall from percolating through the stored materials. Waste liquids should be covered with tarpaulins or roofed structures that are large enough to keep rainfall out of the perimeter.

3. Prevent mixing of chemicals in case of a spill by segregating incompatible or reactive materials in separate containment areas.

4. For containers which are accessed for removal of a liquid chemical by employees, install the paved, curbed and covered area described in 1 and 2 above. Place a drip pan under the container spout.

5. Install overfill protection on storage tanks and drums, and install guard rails around tanks and pipes to prevent damage from vehicles.

6. Prevent unauthorized persons from accessing storage containers and causing spills. For example, lock storage buildings and use lockable drum lids. Also, provide warning signs, such as: DANGER - HAZARDOUS MATERIALS and AUTHORIZED PERSONNEL ONLY, etc.

7. Inspect containers each month for deterioration and leaks. Check the covers and lids of containers to make sure they are securely fastened.

8. If the material stored is a “hazardous waste,” you must comply with any and all state and federal regulations and requirements not mentioned in this BMP.


10. Maintain properly stocked spill control kits throughout the facility at locations where accidental discharges have a potential to occur.

Temporarily stored materials:
- Accumulated food wastes
- Paints
- Grease (animal or vegetable)
- Oils
- Used batteries
- Solvents
- Waste materials

* Facilities subject to new development standards as identified in the City’s Stormwater Management Manual may have additional or different requirements than those listed on this BMP. For information please contact the City's Development Assistance staff at 503-823-7122.

Environmental Services
City of Portland
Clean River Works
Dean Marriott, Director

Contact the Environmental Services Source Control Division 503-823-5320 for more information.

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