



Tool Box Talk

Focus on Performance

Fuel & Chemical Storage

Sust. 04

What?

Fuel, oils and many chemicals have hazardous properties. Spills or leaks onto the ground or into watercourses cause pollution.

Why?

Spills of fuel, oils or hazardous chemicals onto the ground can result in long-term contamination of soils and potentially of drinking water aquifers. Spills or leaks to watercourses can have severe effects on fish and other aquatic plants and animals. Pollution of the ground and watercourses is illegal; polluters may be fined and required to pay clean-up costs.

Oil stores must meet legal requirements for minimum leak containment capacity. Spills and leaks also result in the loss of high value resources and increase costs.

How?

- Consider whether fuel or chemicals are required on site or whether high volumes are needed. Are less hazardous alternatives available?
- Consider an external bund for fuel tanks and generators in sensitive area, i.e. close to watercourse, drainage system or Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI).
- Fuel and chemical stores should be located away from watercourses, drains and, unsealed ground (where possible).
- Check bulk fuel and oil storage for suitable, good condition leak containment (e.g. bunding, double-skinned tanks).
- Ensure chemicals are stored in a suitable container equipped with a drip tray and/or bunding.
- Ensure fuel and chemical stores are locked when not in use.
- Replace hoses and nozzles within bunded areas after use.
- Ensure refuelling takes place in a bunded area or over a drip tray away from watercourses and drains. Use funnels where possible.
- Do not leave refuelling unattended.
- Ensure drip trays and bunded areas are regularly inspected, and emptied if full. Drip tray/bund waste should be disposed of as hazardous waste and never tipped onto ground or down drains.
- Ensure drip trays are placed under static plant when not in use.
- Ensure you have a fully stocked spill kit available next to fuel and chemical stores and your work area.



Questions

1. Why might a small spill of diesel to ground be a problem?
2. How should you dispose of full drip tray contents?
3. What equipment should you use when refuelling?

If you have any queries regarding the content of this tool box talk please contact your Sustainability Advisor or Line Manager.