

Spill management and response

Spills at your facility are a potential source of stormwater pollution. Contaminated stormwater can flow from your property into the stormwater system which connects to Calgary's rivers and creeks. Protect your business and the environment by taking these simple steps to reduce the risk of stormwater pollution.

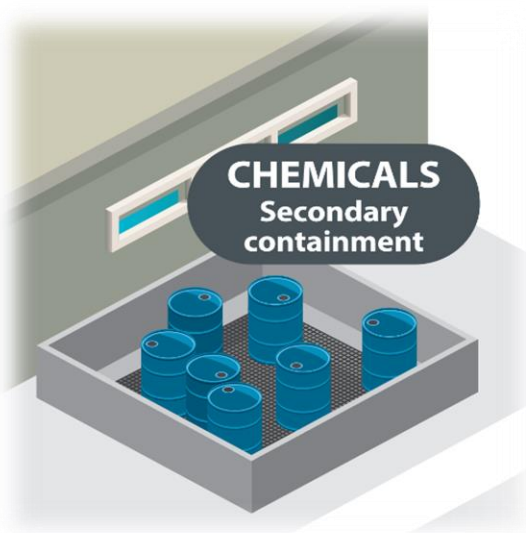
Prevent Spills Step 1: Map your site

This will help you identify locations for possible spills and plan cost-effective spill containment before a spill occurs. Visit calgary.ca/stmpp for guidance on mapping your site.

Step 2: Always use primary and secondary containment

Primary containment is the receptacle in which a hazardous substance or material is contained during normal operation. It is critical that this receptacle is in good condition and there is no evidence of leaks. Leaky primary containment should be replaced immediately.

Secondary containment provides temporary containment of any substance or material from the primary container until the appropriate spill response is implemented. Secondary containment should be installed wherever pollutants are located. Be sure to choose the correct containment practice for the situation or equipment. For simple situations a well-maintained drip pan under equipment, valves, or other potential leaks might be sufficient. Other situations (i.e. large-scale chemical storage) might need more containment, such as a concrete containment structure or area.



Concrete secondary containment shown here will collect spills or leaks from chemicals in primary containment (blue barrels).

Substances that can be a source of stormwater pollution include, but are not limited to:

- Gasoline/diesel
- Motor oil
- Lubricating oil
- Hydraulic fluid
- Fertilizers and pesticides
- Hot asphalt and roofing tar
- Caustic or acidic substances
- Sewage
- Ammonia
- Plastic (pellets, resin, waste)
- Sediment (dust, dirt, mud)
- Paint
- Solvents
- Cooking fats, oils, grease
- Antifreeze/glycol and de-icing products
- Litter
- Chemical stains that can be remobilized

Step 3: Inspect and maintain

Primary and secondary containment along with other best management practices (BMPs) are only effective if they are maintained and ready for a spill. Maintenance is best monitored by implementing an inspection program for your site. Inspections should be conducted at a frequency that is most appropriate for your site. It is recommended that these inspections take place on a seven-day frequency, but this will depend on type of BMPs used on site and the volume of stormwater your site generates. A site inspection form can be used to document your site inspections and any maintenance performed. Visit calgary.ca/stmpp for a site inspection template.



Be prepared for Spills Step 4: Have the right spill kit

Spill kits provide the supplies to administer a first response to a spill on your site. Keep your spill kit stocked and immediately replace materials that have been used. There are three main types of spill kits available. Ensure your business has spill kits relevant to the type of work and spills that could occur.

Oil / Fuel Spill Kits: If oil, grease, hydraulic fluid and fuel are present on your site you should have an oil/fuel spill kit in addition to secondary containment.

Chemical Spill Kits: These kits are typically customized based on the types of chemicals at the facility, but commonly include absorbent materials, often contain neutralizing materials such as sodium bicarbonate.

Universal Spill Kits: These kits are suitable for cleaning a variety of small spills such as coolants, paint, degreasers, and less harmful chemicals.

Step 5: Know when to report spills and request emergency assistance

Call 9-1-1 if you can't contain the spill or if it seeps into soil or flows to a gutter or storm drain. The City of Calgary requires that you report all spills that enter City infrastructure or property and Alberta Environment and Parks requires you to report spills that could harm the environment (air, soil, groundwater, or surface water). Ensure you have accurate information on the type and quantity of substance spilled, and where it occurred. Use the appropriate contact numbers listed here to report spills.

Visit calgary.ca/stmpp for more tips to reduce stormwater pollution at your facility.



Spill kits come in many different container shapes and sizes depending on the type and volume of spill response material inside. All containers should be easily accessible and labelled 'spill kit'.

Emergency 9-1-1

The City of Calgary 311

Alberta Environment and Parks
1-800-222-6514