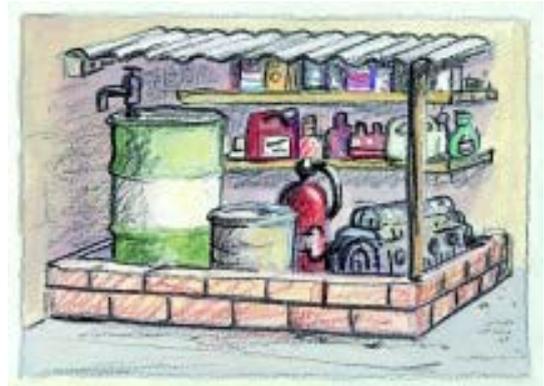


Storage of Liquids

Business Pollution Prevention Fact Sheet

Many materials, including liquids, can damage the environment if handled or stored incorrectly. Correct handling and storage of liquids can avoid potential damage to our waterways and the overall environment. Under the *Protection of the Environment Operations Act 1997*, it is an offence to store material in such a way that it is likely water pollution will occur.



Storage Recommendations

These recommendations apply to typical liquids found within many industrial premises such as oils, solvents, fuels, acids and paints. These recommendations should be regarded as complementary to other safety plans, codes and licences required by other authorities administering relevant legislation such as the Environmental Protection Authority (EPA), WorkCover Authority and the NSW Fire Brigade.

- Storage areas should be located **away** from stormwater drains to prevent accidental spills or leaks from entering the stormwater system.
- Storage areas including drums or tanks should be bunded to contain any leaks and spills. Bunding will contain spills in one area preventing pollution of the stormwater system and will also make it easier to clean up the spill. A simple ramp can be installed to make placement and removal of containers from the bunded area easier.
- If indoor storage is not possible, liquid storage tanks and drums should be stored outside within a bunded and covered area.

Dangerous Goods

Certain substances are classified as Dangerous Goods and their use and storage is controlled by the Dangerous Goods (Road and Rail Transport) Act 2008. e.g. LPG. Contact the WorkCover Authority on 02 4921 2900 for more information and to find out if you require a Dangerous Goods Licence.

Bunding and storage areas

A bund is a low wall, dam or speed hump made of impervious material. Bunding is designed to contain spills and leaks that may occur from liquid storage areas and makes it easier to clean up the spill. The height of the bund depends on the volume of liquid stored and should be large enough to hold the contents of the container plus 10%. If your bunded area is uncovered, then you must take into account the volume of rainwater which could cause your bunded area to overflow. Bunds can also be placed across entrances to workshops and driveways to contain water liquids and spills. For additional information on bunding refer to the EPA Bunding and Spill Management

Guidelines: <http://www.epa.nsw.gov.au/mao/bundingspill.htm>

Note: The construction of bunds and storage areas must comply with the requirements of Australian Standard 1940 "The Storage and Handling of Flammable and Combustible Liquids"

Housekeeping

Maintaining clean premises, especially workshop and storage areas, will prevent unintentional pollution of the stormwater system. For example, oils, grease, paint residue, solvents and other materials including sand and sediment should be cleaned up from around your premises regularly. Using 'Dry Cleaning' methods (see Spills Info Sheet) is recommended. Your customers and staff will also appreciate a clean and tidy work area.

Further Information and advice:

Newcastle City Council	4974 2000
EPA Pollution Line	131 555
Hunter Water	1300 657 657
WorkCover Authority (NSW)	131 050
Standards Australia	1800 035 822

