

# Responding to spills

**Liquid waste spills that are not appropriately handled can harm the environment and your business. This fact sheet shows you how your business can respond to spills and manage the clean-up of liquid waste spills in a way that minimises environmental harm. Use the poster provided overleaf to remind you of what to do in the event of a spill.**

- Attend to liquid waste spills immediately.
- If it is safe to do so, stop the spill at its source. For instance, set right a tipped container, plug a hole or switch off a pump or compressor.
- For spills of hazardous liquid waste, contact the NSW Fire Brigade immediately on '000'. Report liquid waste spills to your supervisor/manager.
- To contain a spill, distribute spill control and absorbent materials around and over the entire spill area, working from the outside and circling to the inside.
- Ensure that used absorbent materials and other equipment used to clean up spills are disposed of at a legal facility. Used absorbent materials that drip or leak liquids, or contain hazardous chemicals, cannot be placed in a general waste bin.
- Log all incidences of spills.
- Investigate the cause of each spill and ensure that precautionary action is implemented to lessen the risk of a similar incident recurring.

## In the event of a spill:

- Stop**
- Contain**
- Report**
- Clean up**

You have a duty to notify pollution incidents to the Department of Environment and Conservation (DEC) on 131 555 or your local council. Failure to report a pollution incident that has the potential to cause material harm to the environment is an offence.

The maximum penalty is \$250,000 for corporations, or \$120,000 for individuals.

Businesses responsible for causing a pollution incident, and/or the owners of the liquid waste, are responsible for clean-up and disposal costs in the event of a spill.

**Stormwater flows directly to local waterways ... remember the drain is just for rain.**



# Respond immediately to liquid waste spills



**Stop**  
the spill



**Contain**  
the spill



**Report**  
the spill



**Clean up**  
the spill



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