

Small oil spill readiness

Every year, the Department of Ecology responds to about 2,600 reports of oil spills. This guide is designed to help small businesses be ready to safely respond to small spills of oil products such as:

- Motor and other lubricating oils
- Vegetable and mineral oils
- Hydraulic and brake fluids
- Kerosene and home heating oils
- Diesel and biodiesel fuels
- Gasoline and other highly flammable fuels

Ecology also offers technical assistance by phone to help businesses with small oil spill preparedness. These numbers vary, depending on county location.

Most oil spills small, manageable

Most oil spills Ecology handles are small – usually involving 10 or less gallons. Spillers who move safely and quickly to stop and clean up small spills also can lower their response and cleanup costs – and protect our environment. If a spill is too large or complicated, Ecology can help businesses contact a response contractor.

Extra precaution for gasoline spills

Gasoline is highly flammable and potentially explosive. If there is an emergency, call 911. Gasoline is dangerous if it is allowed to pool up during a spill. Ecology can also provide advice about how to safely respond to small gasoline spills.

Build a ‘spill kit’ to prepare

To be ready to respond safely and quickly to small spills, Ecology recommends putting these items together in special “spill kit:”

- Plastic bucket with threaded lid for easy removal. Label the bucket “spill kit.” Keep it in an easy-to-get-to location. Managers and employees should know where the spill kit is located. The bucket also can be used to store other response items.
- Extra buckets and threaded lids. Having more than one bucket is helpful since they can be used to hold recovered oil and other waste such as liquids, absorbent materials, and contaminated dirt.

WHY IT MATTERS

Oil is toxic. Even small amounts can damage the environment if a spill reaches surface water runoff or storm drains, sewers, ditches, creeks, and other state waters.

Spillers are responsible for cleanup and property damage. If a spiller does not properly respond, Ecology may conduct the cleanup and pass all costs back to the spiller.

Contact information and technical assistance

In Island, King, Kitsap, San Juan, Skagit, Snohomish & Whatcom counties, contact:

Howard Zorzi
425-649-7130

Howard.zorzi@ecy.wa.gov

In Clallam, Clark, Grays Harbor, Jefferson, Lewis, Mason, Pacific, Pierce, Skamania, Thurston & Wahkiakum counties, contact:

Jim Sacht
360-407-6328

Jim.sacht@ecy.wa.gov

In Central and Eastern Washington, contact:

Jeff Lewis
509-454-7829

Jeff.lewis@ecy.wa.gov

Special accommodations

If you need this document in a format for the visually impaired, call the Spills Program at 360-407-7455. Persons with hearing loss, call 711 for Washington Relay Service. Persons with a speech disability, call 877-833-6341.

- Absorbent pads and granular absorbent materials such as kitty litter and shop sweep. Store these items in the oil spill kit bucket.
- Gloves, eye and hearing protection. These can be placed in the kit bucket.
- Duct tape or repair putty to repair or patch leaking fuel lines and tanks. Store these in the bucket.
- Plastic sheeting or tarp to help block drains and protect items from spills.
- Brooms, shovels, and dust pans.

Response tips

- Call 911 immediately if there is an injury, fire or a threat of a fire or explosion.
- Control or shut off the spill source as soon as possible.
- Identify and cover storm, sewer, and other drains. Use plastic sheet or tarp to cover these drains to keep oil out of the environment. This includes oily water runoff. It is best if everyone knows where these drains are located before a spill occurs.
- Keep untrained and unprotected people out of the spill area.
- Notify state and federal authorities about the spill. Write down these reporting numbers on a laminated card and tape it to the inside lid of the spill kit bucket.
- To help make cleanups go faster, line buckets with plastic garbage bags and fill them to about one-third with absorbent materials. Once filled, these bags can be tied off and marked to identify what types of wastes are inside.
- Follow local, state, and federal disposal regulations. Work with your local garbage hauler or solid waste authority to see how oily and mixed waste from a small spill at your business should be properly handled.

Properly reporting oil spills crucial

State law requires spillers to immediately report oil spills, especially if a spill reaches or threatens to reach state waters. Spillers need to call two 24-hour reporting numbers:

- **1-800-424-8802** – This is the number for National Response Center; and
- **1-800-258-5590** or **1-800-OILS-911** – This is the number for Washington Military Department's Emergency Management Division (EMD). EMD will route the report to Ecology.

Please be ready with the following information:

- Where is the spill?
- What spilled?
- How much spilled?
- Who spilled the material?
- Is anyone cleaning up the spill?
- Are there environmental damages such as dead fish or oiled birds?
- Who is reporting the spill?
- How can we get back to you?

More information is at www.ecy.wa.gov/programs/spills/other/reportaspill.htm.