



WMTS

POLLUTION CONTROL

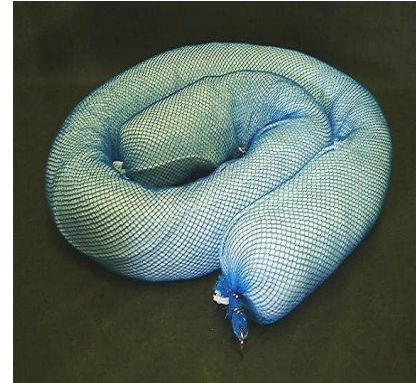


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Waste Management Total Solutions can help provide your staff with specific procedures and training on how to deal with spills of many hazardous materials that you may store on your premises.

Part of this process should include [instructions](#) on what to do in the event of a spill, adequate training to apply absorbents the type of personal protection equipment required and how to correctly dispose of contaminated clean-up materials.



Water Pollution

Almost any solid, liquid or gaseous substance entering surface waters or groundwater could be a pollutant. This includes chemicals, salt, wash waters, waste products, trade effluents, and fuels. Rainwater that runs across your site can also be classed as a pollutant if substances from your site contaminate it.

Almost all substances used and disposed of by businesses are unsuitable for discharge to surface waters or groundwater without prior treatment and consent. Even hot water can be classified as a pollutant.

This guideline applies to you if:

- you discharge or have the potential to discharge anything into surface water or groundwater

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- substances from your site enter surface waters or groundwater accidentally, for example by spillage or run-off.

What are surface waters and groundwater?

Surface waters include rivers, lakes, lochs, reservoirs, ponds, streams, canals, ditches, coastal waters and estuaries. Groundwater is all water, which is below the surface of the ground in the saturation zone (that is, below the water table) and in direct contact with the ground or subsoil.

Storing and handling materials on your site

Store and handle raw materials, wastes, chemicals, salts and fuels in a responsible way, so that they cannot enter surface waters and groundwater.

Store all above ground storage tanks, drums and containers on an impermeable base within a bund. The bund should be made of material that is impermeable to the liquid being stored.

In **England, Northern Ireland and Wales** you should meet the requirements of the Oil Storage Regulations, as they are designed to prevent contamination of the water environment, which is an offence under the water legislation.

Designate, mark and isolate loading and unloading areas from the surface water drainage system. If this is not possible, protect surface water drains using sandbags, mats or other devices.

Install drip trays or other forms of containment beneath any equipment that is likely to leak or result in spillage of pollutants. Empty these on a regular basis so that they do not overflow. The contents of the trays may need to be disposed of as hazardous waste.



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Accidental spills and site security

Have a pollution incident response procedure for dealing with spillages should be used in conjunction with your drainage plan. All staff on site should be made aware of the procedure and how to implement it.

Ensure that you have absorbent materials and other containment equipment suitable for the type and quantity of fuel, oil and chemicals you store and use on site. Ensure that they are located close to where they might be needed, and that your staff know they are there, and how to use them properly.

In the event of a pollution incident affecting or likely to affect surface waters or groundwater, report it immediately via the Environment Agency emergency hotline (0800 80 70 60). If quick action is taken, it may be possible to contain the spillage within the drainage system and prevent pollution occurring.

Site security

Make your site and storage areas secure.

Take all necessary precautions to prevent intruders or unauthorised personnel from being able to discharge pollutants from your site into surface waters or groundwater, for example by tampering with or puncturing containers of chemicals, oils or other fluids. You may be liable for any pollution, which results from the acts of third parties. Note that proximity or otherwise to a river is not relevant, as the surface water drainage system can convey pollutants there, even if it is some distance away.

Managing your site's discharges and drainage

Check your site drainage

If you discharge any effluents, such as trade effluents, sewage or cooling waters, to drains on your site, you should check whether these drains are linked to the foul sewer or surface water drains.

Foul sewers carry effluents to a sewage works for treatment; if you generate trade effluent you are likely to need a consent or agreement from your sewerage undertaker to discharge to these sewers.

Surface water drains may discharge directly to surface waters or groundwater. You are committing an offence if you allow poisonous, noxious or polluting matter to enter a drain and reach surface waters or groundwater unless you have prior written authorisation.

Drainage Plan

Have an up-to-date and accurate drainage plan available at all times. This will identify the locations of all drains and sewers in and around your site, and where they lead.

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When making a discharge to a drain or sewer, always check that you are connecting to the correct system.

Remember

- **Trade effluent** and **sewage** to the **foul sewer**.
- **Clean uncontaminated surface water** to the **surface water drainage system**.

Paint drainage system manhole covers, gullies and grills on site, in a recognised color-coding system (**blue** for surface water drains and **red** for foul water drains). This will help you to identify where any discharge or spillage will end up. Develop and implement a system for routinely inspecting and testing any pollution prevention equipment, such as:

- oil separators
- effluent treatment plants
- storage tanks (above and below ground)
- impermeable surfaces
- drains
- bund walls.

Make sure that roof water drainpipes discharge to the surface water system via direct drain points or sealed top entry gullies. Do not use open gullies or grates as these may allow contaminants into the system.

When constructing or surfacing external hard surfaces, such as car parks, check with your environmental regulator to establish their requirements with respect to spills and surface water run-off, for example provision of interceptors.

In areas without mains drainage, direct your domestic sewage to a private treatment facility such as a septic tank or packaged treatment plant. Most of these require a written authorisation from your environmental regulator.

Oil interceptors

Isolate run-off from refueling areas from general yard drainage. Drain this run-off to an oil interceptor. You may need permission from your environmental regulator or Water Company, to discharge the wastewater from your oil interceptor or other treatment systems into watercourses or drains.

Interceptors are only designed to remove some oils and fuels from water. They do not remove other pollutants, such as chemicals, soluble oils and impurities or dust. Regularly maintain all the interceptors on your site. Maintenance should include inspection and removal of the accumulated oil and removal of the sludge from the bottom of the tank. This sludge may need to be disposed of as hazardous waste if the oil content is greater than 0.1% w/w. Leave interceptors full of water after cleaning to maintain the seal, so as to ensure that they continue to work effectively.

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ACCIDENTAL SPILLS



Accidental releases of oils and or chemicals make up a large number of pollution incidents within the rail industry and do occur each year.

Many spillages can be prevented. It is important that everyone on depot or site knows how to control and contain a spill to minimize its impact.

- Spills spread very quickly and lead to environmental harm.
- Fines and clean-up costs can be expensive.
- Avoid negative publicity for the company and your clients.

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If spill occurs

- Stop work immediately
- If spillage is flammable, extinguish all possible ignitions
- Identify the source of pollution
- Contain the spillage, use absorbents to stop it spreading and booms to contain spill that might have entered a watercourse.
- Contact depot/line manager.
- Put on appropriate PPE.
- Protect sensitive areas, watercourse or surface water drains, SSSI etc.
- Clean up spill.
- Dispose of contaminated materials; ensure hazardous waste considerations are given.
- Notify your depot/line manager of the actions you have taken.



Washing Down Plant and Vehicles

Washing down plant and machinery, hosing down concrete truck mixers or degreasing engines can all lead to serious pollution incidents if it is not properly carried out.

The resulting dirty water should not be allowed to enter surface water drains or road gullies, which generally discharge directly into local streams, rivers or soakaways.

Careful consideration must be given to where washing down is carried out.

WHY?

Avoid environmental harm: Dirty washing and rinsing water may contain dislodged mud, grease, oils, and detergents, cleaning agents or toxic chemicals, materials that can kill fish and other aquatic life and which may also seriously affect the surrounding environment.

Avoid prosecution: It is an offence to allow polluting matter such as silt, cement, concrete, fuel, oils, cleaning chemicals and detergents to enter a watercourse or a drain.

Cost: The cost of cleaning up a pollution incident can far exceed the cost of putting proper control measures in place.