

Storage of Liquid Materials in Stationary Tanks

This activity applies to you if you store any type of liquids outside, including but not limited to chemicals, waste oils, solvents, or petroleum products in above ground stationary tanks. Leaking tanks can contribute toxic compounds, oils and greases, metals, abnormal pH, and nutrients to stormwater runoff. In addition, spills may occur during liquid transfer operations to and from the tanks.

This activity does not apply to underground storage tanks or to businesses permitted by the Washington State Department of Ecology to treat, store, or dispose of dangerous wastes. Storage of reactive, combustible, or flammable liquids must comply with the King County Fire Code Title 17.

MINIMUM REQUIREMENTS

The following BMPs, or equivalent measures, methods, or practices are required if you are engaged in storage of liquid materials in above ground stationary tanks:

1

Store and contain liquid materials in such a manner that if the tank is ruptured or leaks, the contents will not discharge, flow, or be washed into the storm drainage system, surface waters, or groundwater. Typically this means installing secondary containment or using a double-walled tank.



See BMP Info Sheet 5 in Chapter 5 for information on containment.

2

If the liquid is oil, gas, or other material that separates from and floats on water, install a spill control device (such as an oil/water separator or down-turned elbow) in the catch basins that collect runoff from the storage tank area.



See BMP Info Sheet 9 in Chapter 5 for information on oil/water separators.

3

Required Routine Maintenance:

- Place drip pans or absorbent materials beneath all mounted taps and at all potential drip and spill locations during filling and unloading of tanks. Any collected liquids or soiled absorbent materials must be reused, recycled, or properly disposed of.
- Store and maintain appropriate spill cleanup materials near the tank storage area, in a location known to all. Ensure that employees are familiar with the site's spill control plan and/or proper spill cleanup procedures.
- Sweep and clean the storage area as needed if it is paved. Do not hose down the area to a storm drain.
- Check tanks (and any containment sumps) daily for leaks and spills. Replace tanks that are leaking, corroded, or otherwise deteriorating. Collect all spilled liquids and properly dispose of them.
- Inspect spill control devices regularly (daily/weekly) to remove floating oil and debris.



See BMP Info Sheet 2 in Chapter 5 for information on disposal options.

For more information or assistance in implementing these best management practices, contact the King County Department of Natural Resources and Parks Water and Land Resources Division at 206-296-1900.

Reader Note: The above requirements are the minimum required BMPs. If these BMPs fail to prevent discharges to the storm drainage system, you will be asked to take additional measures to correct the continued pollution discharges.