

A-2 Outdoor Storage of Liquid Materials in Stationary Tanks

Best Management Practices (BMPs) are required by King County Code 9.12. If the BMPs included here are not enough to prevent contamination of stormwater, you will be required to take additional measures.

Required BMPs:

- Store and contain liquid materials so if the tank leaks, the contents will not get into the storm drainage system, surface waters, or groundwater. This requires secondary containment or using a double-walled tank.
- Place small, gravity-fed farm fuel tanks without secondary containment on flat and open ground so that a spill or leak will not run downhill toward creeks, ditches, tiles, or drains before it can be contained and cleaned up.
- Place tanks on secure bases and stable ground.
- 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 if the liquid is oil, gas, or other material that separates from and floats on water.
- Place drip pans or absorbent materials under taps and at all potential drip and spill locations during filling and unloading of tanks and properly dispose of collected liquids and absorbent materials. Turn over or remove empty drip pans when not in use.
- Have spill control materials/spill kit near the tanks and any liquid transfer areas.
- Post a spill control plan and keep contact information current.
- Train all employees on required spill response methods and procedures.

Required Routine Maintenance:

- Sweep and clean paved storage areas as needed. Do not hose down the area to a storm drain.
- Check tanks and sumps regularly for leaks and spills and replace if compromised. Collect and dispose of all spilled liquids.
- Inspect spill control devices regularly and remove floating oil and debris.
- Collect and properly dispose of stormwater that collects in containment areas.

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.

Additional Information

- Containment Information Sheet
- Oil/water separators Information Sheet
- Disposal Information Sheet