

# GUIDE TO SPILL SAFETY



## 1. Assess The Risk

When a spill strikes, assess the risk to human health and the environment. Always put safety **FIRST**. If possible, determine the substance spilled and the quantity.

## 2. Use Personal Protective Equipment

Wear the correct PPE to safely respond to the spill. If you are uncertain of the danger, or if the spilled substance is unknown, assume the worst and use the highest level of protection.

## 3. Confine The Spill

Use socks and booms to stop the flow of liquid, to confine and direct liquids, and to minimise the spill area. This is especially important before it reaches a water source.



## 4. Stop The Source

After the liquid is confined, stop the source of the spill, where possible. This could involve righting a tipped over container, or plugging a damaged drum. Where the container is damaged, transfer the liquid into a new container.

## 5. Implement Clean-Up

When the spill is confined and the leak has been stopped, begin clean-up using absorbent mats, pads, and other substances suitable for use with the liquid. Where absorbents are contaminated with hazardous substances, ensure they are disposed of properly. Spilled liquid that is not contaminated may be collected and put into a container for re-use. Where this is not possible, ensure it is disposed of properly, and the area is left clean and tidy.



## 6. Decontaminate

Effective decontamination may be required to ensure the safety and health of spill responders.

## 7. Complete Reports

The incident must be properly recorded and investigated.

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