



Department of Ecology Guidance for Reporting Spills and Overfills of Petroleum

Washington's Underground Storage Tank (UST) regulation, Washington Administrative Code 173-360-375(1)(a), establishes spill and overfill reporting requirements for petroleum USTs. Some (de minimis) amounts of petroleum are not required to be reported, because reporting them would not provide an environmental benefit. Owners and operators of regulated petroleum UST systems must:

REPORT IMMEDIATELY:

Any spill or overfill of petroleum from the UST system, including those resulting from filling operations, if the spill or overfill comes into contact with soil, groundwater or surface water; and

REPORT WITHIN 24 HOURS

Any spill or overfill of petroleum greater than a **de minimis amount** that does not come into contact with soil, groundwater or surface water.

In the past, Ecology had defined a de minimis amount (regarding spills and overfills) as one gallon. Ecology has now revised this definition by removing the reference to a specific amount. A "de minimis amount of petroleum" is now defined as an amount that either: (1) immediately evaporates; or (2) has been sufficiently **recovered** or **contained** so that it will not **pose a threat to human health or the environment**.

"Recovered" means that any petroleum released from a spill or overfill has been removed as necessary to prevent it from moving beyond the immediate area where the spill or overfill occurred. This may be accomplished by using absorbent materials, pumping or other methods.

"Contained" means that any petroleum released from a spill or overfill has been prevented from moving into the soil, groundwater, surface water or storm drain. This may be accomplished by the use of a container, barrier or structure. **NOTE: Petroleum should not be washed down storm drains. Petroleum that reaches a storm drain is not contained and should be reported to Ecology. Petroleum spilled to asphalt is not contained and should be reported to Ecology, if it does not meet the definition for "de minimis amount" as stated above.**

"Pose a threat to human health and the environment" means having the potential to: (1) directly or indirectly, cause an unhealthy effect on exposed humans or other living organisms; or (2) come into contact with soil, groundwater or surface water.

Any petroleum which has been released or any petroleum-contaminated media (such as absorbent materials) from a spill or overfill must be properly disposed of in accordance with all applicable local, state and federal regulations.

To report a spill or overfill, contact the Department of Ecology regional office for your county (phone numbers listed on back) or the Division of Emergency Management 24 hour hotline at 800-258-5990 (voice) or 253-512-7298 (TTY).

If you require this publication in an alternate format, contact the Ecology regional office for your county (phone numbers on back).

Department of Ecology Regional Offices:

Eastern Region (serving Adams, Asotin, Columbia, Ferry, Franklin, Garfield, Grant, Lincoln, Pend Oreille, Spokane, Stevens, Walla Walla and Whitman counties): 4601 N Monroe, Spokane, WA 99205-1295; 509-329-3400, or TTY, for the speech or hearing impaired, 711 or 800-833-6388.

Central Region (serving Benton, Chelan, Douglas, Kittitas, Klickitat, Okanogan and Yakima counties): 15 W Yakima Avenue, Suite 200 Yakima, WA 98902-3401; 509-575-2490 , or TTY, for the speech or hearing impaired, 711 or 800-833-6388.

Northwest Region (serving Island, King, Kitsap, San Juan, Skagit, Snohomish and Whatcom counties): 3190 160th Avenue SE, Bellevue, WA 98008-5452; 425-649-7000 , or TTY, for the speech or hearing impaired, 711 or 800-833-6388.

Southwest Region (serving Clallam, Clark, Cowlitz, Grays Harbor, Jefferson, Lewis, Mason, Pacific, Pierce, Skamania, Thurston and Wahkiakum counties): PO Box 47775, Olympia, WA 98504-7775; 360-407-6300, or TTY, for the speech or hearing impaired, 711 or 800-833-6388.

Headquarters Office: PO Box 47600, Olympia, WA 98504-7600; 360-407-6000, or TTY, for the speech or hearing impaired, 711 or 800-833-6388.