

Focus on: Small Spill Cleanup



Ecology Region Offices and Counties:

**Northwest Regional Office-
Shoreline:** (206) 594-0000

Southwest Regional Office-Olympia:
(360) 407-6300

Central Regional Office-Union Gap:
(509) 575-2490

Eastern Regional Office-Spokane:
(509) 329-3400

Spills Program website
ecology.wa.gov/SpillsProgram

Special accommodations

To request ADA accommodation including materials in a format for the visually impaired, call Ecology at 360-407-7211 or visit <https://ecology.wa.gov/accessibility>. People with impaired hearing may call Washington Relay Service at 711. People with speech disability may call TTY at 877-833-6341.

Small spills and reporting

Most oil spills the Department of Ecology (Ecology) responds to are small, involving 10 gallons or less. Responding quickly may reduce cleanup costs and prevent environmental impacts.

This guide is designed to provide guidance to safely cleanup and dispose of waste from small spills of oil products.

State law required spillers to immediately report oil spills. If a spill is too large or complicated, Ecology can also provide additional guidance and technical assistance. To request assistance from the Department of Ecology, call the appropriate field office or the Washington State Emergency Management Division at 1-800-258-5990.

Extra precaution for gasoline spills

Gasoline is toxic to breath, highly flammable, and potentially explosive and dangerous if allowed to pool up during a spill. Ecology can provide technical assistance for gasoline spills. If there is ever a concern about public safety call 911.

Containing fuel and oil spills

If safe, efforts should be made to keep the fuel or oil from entering any surface water, ground water, storm water drains, or sanitary sewers. If safe, the following actions could be taken to contain the spill:

- Stop the spill (close valves, plug holes, upright a container, etc.)
- Capture spill in container (bucket, drip pan, etc.)
- Stop spill from spreading further (block drains, create barriers or berms, etc.)

Cleaning up small fuel and oil spills

Spills to water should always be called in to Ecology. Ensuring timely cleanup and waste disposal from fuel and oil spills is the responsibility of the spiller. Some cleanup options are:

- Spills to concrete or paved surfaces:
 - Use absorbent material (absorbent pads, kitty litter, peat moss, saw dust, granular absorbent material, etc.) to soak up the spilled fuel or oil.
 - Sweep or scoop up absorbent material and double trash (or equivalent) bag or place into container (such as a 5 gallon bucket).
- Spills to soil or land:
 - If there is pooled fuel or oil, use absorbent material.
 - Shovel or scoop up absorbent material and double trash (or equivalent) bag or place into container (such as a 5 gallon bucket).

Disposal Methods

Small quantities (a few bags) of contaminated adsorbents, that are not soaked, can be double bagged and disposed of at a local landfill with approval from the landfill.

Ecology can provide guidance on disposing of contaminated soils through a contractor.

If a spill occurs at a residence, the waste/product can be taken to household hazardous waste facilities. Contact your local household hazardous waste center.

Fuel or oil captured in containers should be recycled or disposed of through a contractor. For questions contact Ecology's Recycle Hotline at 1-800-RECYCLE (1-800-732-9253) or online at <http://1800recycle.wa.gov/>.