

Machine Shop Checklist #14: Spill Management



Two disposal options

1. Manage as dangerous waste. Label the spilled material “Dangerous Waste” and “Toxic” with letters at least one-half inch high or readable from 25 feet. Send it off-site with a vendor (ask your Ecology contact for a vendor list).

2. Manage as solid waste, not dangerous waste. If you can show it is not dangerous waste, solid waste can go into the dumpster. It should be free of running liquids (there should be no drips if poured into a coffee filter).

Spill Management

Floor absorbents: Used floor absorbents may be dangerous waste, depending on what materials they pick up, such as metalworking fluid, solvents, metal particulates, and sludge contaminants.

- Put spent absorbents from metalworking fluid spills that can’t be recovered into the associated spent metalworking fluid container.
- Put spent absorbent from dangerous waste solvent spills into the correctly associated container.
- Spills that can’t be combined should be designated to determine if the material is dangerous waste or solid waste. Ask Ecology or a vendor for help.

Large spills (more than 5 gallons): These should be captured and reused either with a wet shop vac, shop towel (wrung out), or dustpan (scoop and dump). Prevent transfer spills or catch leaks using catch basins or pans.

Floor drains: Seal or block floor drains in the area where liquid chemicals are stored.

Oil-water separators: Maintain an inspection and service schedule. Remove captured solids and oil.

Septic tanks and drain fields: These must receive only hand washing, shower, and toilet water. Other uses could plug or destroy the drain field or create an expensive hazardous waste cleanup site.

Drywells: These are only for stormwater. Compliance inspectors will lift screens and cover plates and sample or test if discoloration or odors indicate improper disposal (inadvertent or intentional). You should look before they do.

Contact Information

Central Region: (509) 575-2490

Eastern Region: (509) 329-3400

Northwest Region: (206) 594-0000

Southwest Region: (360) 407-6300

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Accessibility

To request an ADA accommodation, email HWTRPubs@ecy.wa.gov, call (360) 407-6700, or dial 711 for relay services. Visit ecology.wa.gov/ADA for more information.