A-3: Storage of Liquid Materials in Portable Containers

Stormwater runoff (rainwater and snow melt) is the largest source of pollution to our lakes, streams and Puget Sound. King County requires businesses to implement measures to protect our shared waters. If the requirements below do not prevent pollution, additional measures are necessary.

The following best management practices (BMPs) apply to the outdoor storage of liquid materials in portable containers and indoor storage where the potential exists to flow outside.

Storage of reactive, combustibles or flammable liquids must comply with the King County Fire Code (KCC 17). The local fire district must be consulted for limitations on clearance of roof covers over containers used to store flammable materials.

Required BMPs

- Place tight–fitting lids on all containers.
- Enclose or cover the containers.
- Raise containers off the ground with a spill containment pallet or similar method to contain the material in the event of a spill or accident.
- Place drip pans or absorbent materials under all potential drip and spill locations during filling and unloading of containers. Properly dispose of collected liquids and used absorbent materials. Turn over empty drip pans when not in use or move under cover.
- Do not use metal drums for liquid chemicals that are corrosive.
- Label all containers with the product name and associated hazards (e.g., flammable, corrosive, toxic or reactive).
- Have spill cleanup materials/spill kit located nearby.
- Have a spill plan with current contact information.
- Train all employees on spill response methods and procedures.

Required Routine Maintenance

- Sweep and clean the container storage areas as needed. Do not hose down the area to the stormwater drainage system.
- Routinely check containers and replace any compromised ones. Check nearby catch basins to ensure nothing spilled into them. Dispose of all spilled liquids properly.
- Inspect spill control devices routinely and properly remove and dispose of accumulated oil and debris.
- Storage of reactive, combustible, or flammable liquids must comply with the King County Fire Code. The local fire district must be consulted for limitations on clearance of roof covers over containers used to store flammable materials.

Additional Information

- Potential pollutants can include: hydrocarbons—such as gasoline and diesel, metals, nutrients, oil and grease, oxygen demanding substances, PCBs, pH, and other pollutants.
- *Stormwater Pollution Prevention Manual*, Chapter 5: Information Sheets
    - Containment
    - Disposal
    - Spill Response and Cleanup Plan

For more information or assistance contact the King County Stormwater Services at 206–477–4811 and visit kingcounty.gov/stormwater.