



Bunding

It is vital that a workshop is constructed in a way so that no discharge, accidental or otherwise, of contaminants such as waste oil, solvent degreasers, lubricants, acid, brake fluid, radiator coolant or detergent can be leaked to waterways. This means that these contaminants need to be prevented from being able to reach stormwater drains, sewer drains, natural waterways or soil.

Workshops should be managed so that contaminants are stored, handled and disposed of in such ways that inhibit leakage.

Types of bunds

Bunding can be achieved by creating barriers around areas where contaminants need to be contained as well as barriers to external areas. Bunds can be made of any non-porous material such as concrete or flexible rubber.

- **Low walls or trays**

These methods are useful for containing contaminant storage areas. Walls can be built around storage areas or trays can be put underneath storage containers. Both of these methods contain spills making clean up of spills easy. If all contaminants are kept in one storage area, then building a low wall may be the best option. For workshops where containers are stored separately around the workshop, trays can be a quick, easy and flexible solution.

- **Speed bumps or angle irons**

Speed bumps and angle irons are useful for bunding external exits as liquids are then contained inside the workshop. By bunding the external exits any liquid spilt anywhere in the workshop is prevented from leaking. In addition, these bunds allow vehicles to move in and out of the workshop. Always make sure these bunds remain fastened to the floor and are well marked so as not to be a trip hazard.

- **Sloping floors**

Another method is to have floors sloping (downwards) so that all liquid runs to workshop drains that lead to a separator instead of leaking outside. If floors are sloped downwards there is no need for bunds over the external exits as it is impossible for liquid to leave the workshop.

- **Drains**

Drains can capture liquid and redirect it to a separator. By placing drains at workshop external exits, liquid can be prevented from escaping. Drains can also be strategically placed around the workshop in "wetter" areas so that liquid is drained quickly to the separator instead of creating a hazard on the floor.

CONSIDER: Look at the areas where contaminants are stored. All liquids should be stored in sealed containers that are free of leakage. All containers should be on sealed ground and in an undercover area. Bunding areas where contaminants are stored as well as bunding the workshop reduces the mess and hassles associated with spills.

When bunding should be used

Bunding is required for any areas that store, mix or use toxic or hazardous substances. This includes areas which:

- Contain above ground bulk liquid chemical storage
- Have fuelling facilities
- Hold large quantities (over 250 litres) of toxic or hazardous substances
- Open to areas outside the workshop
- Are washing or degreasing bays
- Store old parts containing oil.

CONSIDER: Review the liquids being stored and make sure hazardous materials are stored as per WorkCover's requirements.



Working out bunding capacity

Bunding needs to ensure that leakage does not occur; therefore the bunding needs to be able to handle all potential spills.

It is recommended that a bunded area should be at least 110% of the largest container. If additional liquids are being stored it would be safe to allow more, such as 110% of the largest container plus 25% of all containers in the area.

Bunding across all external exits may satisfy these bunding requirements.

Spills

▪ Inside a bunded storage area

If a spill occurs in a bunded storage area then the area should be pumped and the wastewater directed to a separator for proper disposal.

▪ Inside the workshop

If a spill occurs on the workshop floor then actions should be taken to stop the source of the spill if it is safe to do so and then the spill material should be cleaned up as soon as possible. A spill kit containing absorbent materials should be used to soak up the liquid or the liquid should be directed to a separator for proper disposal.

▪ Outside a bunded area

If a spill occurs outside of a bunded area or the bunding doesn't contain the spill then there is the potential that pollution will occur. For spills of hazardous waste, contact the Fire Brigade on 000.

If a contaminant causes pollution the business has a duty to report the incident to the Department of Environment and Climate Change (DECC) or your local council in NSW, or Territory and Municipal Services (TAMS) in the ACT. Failure to report a pollution incident that has the potential to cause material harm to the environment is an offence.

For more information on spills, please see the environmental information guide; "Spill Management".

Key contacts

MTA NSW

02 9213 4222

www.greenstamp.mtansw.com.au

ACTewAGL (ACT)

13 11 93

www.actewagl.com.au

Department of Environment &
Climate Change (NSW)

131 555

www.environment.nsw.gov.au

Emergency Services

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Hunter Water (NSW)

1300 657 657

www.hunterwater.com.au

Local Council Contacts (NSW)

www.dlg.nsw.gov.au

Sydney Water (NSW)

13 20 92

www.sydneywater.com.au

Territory & Municipal Services (ACT)

13 22 81

www.tams.act.gov.au

WorkCover (ACT)

02 6205 0200

www.workcover.act.gov.au

WorkCover (NSW)

13 10 50

www.workcover.nsw.gov.au