



## Spill kits and preparing for a spill

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If you have hazardous substances, you need to have a plan for containing any spill and know how you are going to clean it up. A major part of this involves having a spill kit.

A spill kit contains the equipment and materials you will need to clean up a spill. Some of the equipment will depend on the type and amount of chemicals you have.

You can buy spill kits from safety equipment suppliers or you can assemble your own.

### What to put in your spill kit

- Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) such as gumboots, gloves, overalls, goggles and respirators. You should have enough PPE for the number of workers you might need to manage the spill.
- Spill containment equipment such as drip trays, drain guards and barriers.
- Spill handling equipment such as a broom and plastic shovel.
- Absorbent materials such as dry sand, vermiculite, zeolite or spill containment socks.
- A leak-proof container to put the waste in for disposal.

### Absorbent materials

- Absorbent materials should be inert so they do not react with the chemicals being cleaned up.
- Vermiculite and zeolite work well and do not cost much. You can buy them from your safety equipment supplier or from DIY or garden retailers (vermiculite is used in gardening and horticulture, and zeolite is sold as kitty litter and BBQ absorbent material).
- Absorbent material should absorb around half of their volume of liquid.
- You should have enough absorbent material for your largest containers that do not need to be kept in secondary containment.

### Spill containment socks

Spill containment socks are fabric tubes containing absorbent materials, such as vermiculite, which are used to soak up spills before they spread or to help prevent spills reaching storm-water or drainage systems. You can buy them from your safety equipment supplier or make them yourself from hessian or canvas.



For more detailed information on spill kits and preparing for a spill

**The regulations**

[Regulation 5.7, Health and Safety at Work \(Hazardous Substances\) Regulations 2017](#)

**The guidance**

[Working safely with hazardous substances – emergency preparation](#)