

Environmental Guidance Note

Chemical and Paint Storage

Links to relevant SHEMS Standards, Minimum Standards and Forms

Links to relevant guidance (SHEMS or external)

Contact the [relevant environmental manager or adviser](#) for more information.

Purpose

■ must ensure that chemicals and paints are stored to reduce the risk of pollution.

This guidance is aimed at ■ employees who plan or manage the storage of chemicals and paints on sites, in depots or other premises.

Guidance

Storage

- All paints and chemicals must be stored in suitable and labelled containers (this includes the paint tins, plastic containers etc. as delivered)
- When not in use these containers must be stored in secure, lockable cabinets, rooms or stores, to prevent unauthorised access. Limiting access will help with stock control and wastage.
- Ensure paints and chemicals are stored in line with the manufacturer's Material Safety Data Sheet (MSDS) and COSHH requirements.
- Paints and chemicals should be recorded in the site or premises' COSHH substances summary sheet.
- Storage cabinets, or storage areas, should be bunded so that any spilled paints and chemicals are captured in the bund, therefore reducing the risk of environmental pollution. Alternatively, containers can be stood on suitable drip trays.
- Hazardous paints and chemicals should be segregated according to their chemical properties (e.g. flammables segregated from oxidisers).
- Any spillages that occur within the storage area must be reported and cleaned up.
- A spill kit appropriate to the paint or chemical being stored must be available.



Spill Products Brochure (supplier not mandated)

Planning

- A well planned and laid out storage area, good security, careful handling and limiting the amount of paints and chemicals stored reduces waste through damage and accumulation of out of date stocks.
- Stores should be checked regularly for out of date packaging. Paints and chemicals intended for disposal must be clearly identified and stored appropriately.
- If large quantities of chemicals or paint are being kept on a site or premises, consideration must be given to potential run-off in the event of spills.
 - Any large quantity of paints or chemicals should be stored in a cabinet, inside a building and located not less than 10m from a watercourse.
 - If quantities are stored outdoors for any length of time prior to being moved into long term storage, they should be covered and located where damage via collision etc. cannot occur.
- Storage locations should be in accordance with the relevant fire risk assessment in line with the Fire Management Standard

SHEMS-STD-GR-020
Fire Management

Procurement

The contents of this guidance must be considered when orders are made for chemical and paint stocks, storage units and bunded containment systems. Certain substances may be able to be delivered with integral containment and / or spill prevention equipment. These options can sometimes offer better value and / or the most appropriate supplementary storage containers.

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Key points for planning and executing the task. (NB This list is not exhaustive, and local conditions must also be considered).

- Secure area is available for chemical / paint storage to prevent pollution following spillage
- Stores are in good order and tidy with lids / tops on containers to prevent waste
- All chemicals / paints with 'use by' dates have been removed and disposed of appropriately
- Large quantities of chemicals / paints are stored in a cabinet or on appropriate racking / shelving and inside a building / lock up and are located not less than 10m from a watercourse
- Chemicals / paints stored outside for any length of time are covered and located where damage via collision etc. cannot occur
- Chemicals / paints Materials susceptible to water damage are not stored outside without waterproof covers
- Containers containing residual amounts of hazardous chemicals or paints are being stored and disposed of as hazardous / special waste

Further Resources

Identifying and Protecting
Watercourses and Drainage

Spill Response

Spill Products Brochure
(supplier not mandated)

Spill Training Brochure
(supplier not mandated)

Spill Response Training Video
(note new call-out number
0800 592 827)

Classifying and Recording
Environmental Incidents