



Bunding and Storage

Laws prohibit businesses and individuals from polluting stormwater, or allowing pollution to occur (*Environmental Protection Act 1970*). Oils, chemicals or trade wastewater escaping from a workshop or work area into the stormwater system can result in large clean up costs and significant fines.

As a result, many businesses today are using bunding to prevent hazardous waste from escaping their businesses and entering into the stormwater systems. Bunding is therefore essentially a measure used to mitigate the risk of illegal water pollution. For information on the legal requirements of bunding refer to EPA Victoria's *Bunding Guidelines Publication 347, December 1992*. These guidelines detail bunding specifications such as bund height, maintenance and operation.

What is a Bund?

A bund is a device intended to prevent the uncontrolled escape of hazardous liquid into stormwater, sewerage or soil.

A bund can be designed in a number of ways including:

- A storage area located within a building to prevent any spillage from reaching stormwater or the sewer,
- A building sealed to prevent the escape of spills,
- A small area within a building designed to contain spills within a raised hump,
- A large container that smaller liquid containers are placed into.

An entire workshop or storage area may be banded to prevent illegal discharge from escaping into stormwater or sewerage systems.

A bund container should be able to hold the contents of your largest container, plus 10%, to ensure the bund holds all liquid in the event of a spill.

Liquid wastes collected by a bund may only be discharged to the sewer if you have a Trade Waste Agreement with your local water authority.

If you do not have a Trade Waste Agreement, these wastes must be collected by a contractor with an EPA permit. You must fill out and keep a Waste Transport Certificate if you do this, which must be kept for at least 24 months.

Bunding and Storage Management

- Review all operations and storage facilities to identify ways to prevent all types of spills from running into stormwater.
- Reduce the amounts of hazardous or toxic liquid you keep on site.
- Bund your entire workshop to prevent any spill from entering stormwater, sewerage or a drain.
- Ask your local water authority for an approved bund design.
- Have a contractor construct your bunds and drains according to this approved design.
- Bund all chemical and liquid storage areas. If you are only storing small amounts (<20 litres) of chemicals or oil on the premises, a bund may not be required.
- Drain banded areas to the sewer via a coalescing plate separator, silt trap, triple interceptor trap, petrol and oil interceptor or a similar approved device if a spill does occur.
- Obtain a permit or Trade Waste Agreement that allows you to drain banded areas to the sewer.
- Prevent rainwater from entering the sewer by roofing banded areas.

A Good Tip!

Prove the effectiveness of your bund by releasing water of the same volume as your largest container and recording where the water goes.

Further Information



Environment Protection Authority Victoria

Phone: (03) 9695 2722

www.epa.vic.gov.au

© VACC Green Stamp Plus
Issue date: November 2010

Note: This Good Practice Guideline is not a complete statement of law relevant to this topic. Further legal advice must be sought if complete information is required.