

# Secondary Containment



Outdoor spills at industrial and commercial facilities can be hazardous to residents and our environment. Since anything that flows into the storm drain system can flow untreated into our waterways, spills of industrial and commercial liquids can harm water quality, kill aquatic life and cause human illness during water recreation. It is your responsibility to properly use secondary containment when storing liquids like cleaning chemicals, used oil, paint and liquid fertilizer in outdoor areas to prevent chemicals from leaving your property. Being proactive and utilizing secondary containment measures can prevent these substances from causing damage and help you avoid costly fines.

## Proper Outdoor Storage

Effective secondary containment includes containers, curbs or other leak-proof structures separate from the primary liquid storage container that prevent unintentional spills from leaving the storage area. Proper maintenance of these structures is critical to preventing runoff pollution.

- ◆ Regularly remove liquids that accumulate in your secondary containment structure.
- ◆ Properly dispose of non-hazardous liquids into the sanitary sewer system.
- ◆ If liquids are hazardous waste, dispose of them and all matter used to clean up the spill at a hazardous waste disposal location. Find one near you by going to <https://wastefreesd.org>.
- ◆ Ensure all liquid storage containers have covers to prevent rain from causing overflows.

A City enforcement official may issue a minimum required capacity on your property if spills from improper containment occur.



## STORMWATER REGULATIONS

Effective secondary containment shall be provided and maintained for all containers of liquid stored in outdoor areas to prevent leaks or spills from discharging pollutants into the Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System (MS4) (San Diego Municipal Code §43.0304(a)). Penalties associated with these violations can be up to \$10,000 per day per incident.