

Toolbox Talk – Spill Prevention: Two Key Best Practices

Spill prevention isn't just about keeping the site clean — it's about **protecting the environment, avoiding costly fines, and keeping workers safe and healthy**. The best way to avoid a spill? Don't let it happen in the first place.



This safety talk focuses on **two essential best practices** that help reduce the risk of spills and keep your job site safe and compliant.

✓ **Best Practice #1: Prepare Before You Start**

Preparation is your first line of defense.

Before working with any chemical or hazardous material:

- **Review the Safety Data Sheet (SDS).** It tells you everything you need to know — how to store it, what PPE to wear, and what to avoid mixing it with.
- **Know the risks** — and make sure you're trained. Every worker handling chemical should understand the Hazard Communication Program and be trained in the use of proper PPE.
- **Never start a task if you're unsure** about a chemical hazard or if something hasn't been addressed. Ask questions. Get clarity. Don't guess.

■ **Best Practice #2: Use Secondary Containment**

Secondary containment is a simple and effective way to **keep spills off the ground** and out of the environment.

Here's what that looks like in practice:

- Store **chemical containers, fuel-powered equipment, hoses, and pumps** inside a secondary containment area.

- **Keep containment systems in good shape:**

- Make sure containment walls are properly set up and stable.
- Don't let hoses rest directly on containment walls — they can collapse the sides and create a leak point.
- Keep backup containments or **patch kits** nearby in case something goes wrong.
- Never store chemicals that could **react dangerously together** in the same containment area.
- Have a **spill response kit** and **approved disposal containers** nearby — don't wait until something happens to go looking for them.

☐ **Wrap-Up: Prevention Starts with You**

Preventing spills is everyone's responsibility. With proper preparation, smart storage, and a little attention to detail, **most spills can be completely avoided**. And if a spill does happen, the right setup ensures it's contained quickly and safely.

↻ Always follow your site's spill prevention policies.

- ☐ Keep your work area tidy.
- ☐ Be ready with the right tools and training.

SAFETY TRAINING SIGN IN SHEET

TRAINING TITLE			
DATE & TIME		LOCATION	
COMPANY		TRAINER	

NAME	SIGNATURE	PHONE