

ACRE
ALLIANCE FOR A
CLEAN
RURAL
ENVIRONMENT

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**KEEPING SPILLS
 FROM WATER
 SUPPLIES**

Spills, when handling, transporting or using ag chemicals are a concern for every producer. By knowing what to do if a spill occurs, whether it's on your property or on the road you can help minimize the risk and prevent ground water and surface water contamination.

1 CONTROL THE SPILL as quickly as possible by restoring the container to its upright position, closing a leaking valve or hose or putting a secondary container in place to catch the leaking solution. Of course, appropriate personal safety equipment should be used, e.g. rubber gloves, rubber boots and eye protection.

2 CALL YOUR DEALER for advice on clean-up of their chemical. They will also give you special safety advice and other information.

3 CONTAIN THE SPREAD of the spill when the leak has been stopped by creating soil dams in the path of the spilled liquid. It may be most important to first divert a spill away from a nearby pond or stream and then attempt to stop the leak or spill. This is a judgement call that only you can make.

4 BEGIN CLEAN UP as soon as the situation has been stabilized. Quick action on your part to clean up a spill is not only required in many states, but will prevent the chemical from leaching or washing away in a rainstorm.

5 USE ABSORBENT MATERIALS on pavement or concrete to capture the spilled liquids. They can then be shoveled or swept. An excellent,

inexpensive absorbent material to keep on hand for such purposes is nonchlorinated pet litter.

6 PROPERLY DISPOSE of the drenched soil or absorbent material. This will depend on what and how much was spilled and the rules for disposal in your state. Contact state or local officials for legally acceptable options of disposal.

7 REPORT THE SPILL if required, before it threatens public health or the environment. If the spill is large or enters a waterway, you'll need to call the local EPA office, the local emergency planning office or the state health department. The reporting criteria vary with the chemical spilled, however, so ask your dealer to check the Material Safety Data Sheet or call the manufacturer for further details.

PROPER CLEANUP OF SPILLS

PRWA Note - 2003 - phone numbers may not be current

Whom to call:



EPA Hazardous Waste Hotline: 1-800-424-9346
 EPA Safe Drinking Water Hotline: 1-800-426-4791
 National Pesticides
 Telecommunications Network: 1-800-858-7378
 National Agricultural Chemicals Assn: 202-296-1585
 Disposal of Hazardous Pesticides: 703-557-7400
 Chemicals Referral Center: 1-800-262-8200
 Chemtrec Emergency Hotline: 1-800-424-9300

EPA Regional Offices

Atlanta: 404-347-3004	Kansas City: 913-561-7003
Boston: 617-565-3715	New York: 212-264-2525
Chicago: 312-353-2000	Philadelphia: 215-597-9370
Dallas: 214-655-6444	San Francisco: 415-556-6478
Denver: 303-293-1692	Seattle: 206-442-5810

The Alliance for a Clean Rural Environment (ACRE) is a non-profit, non-political organization that encourages environmental stewardship and protection of water quality, supported by the makers of America's crop protection chemicals.