

# SAFE HANDLING OF SPILLS

## I'VE SPILLED SOME PAINT!

### WHAT DO I DO?

The following procedure is suggested for solvent-borne and two-pack paint spills. Act quickly and keep calm.

### IDENTIFY RISKS

Shut off all possible sources of ignition. Clear the area of all unprotected personnel. Wear protective equipment to prevent skin and eye contact and breathing in vapours. As coatings are generally slippery when spilt, caution must be maintained to avoid slipping in the spillage. Work up wind and/or increase ventilation.

### STOP THE LEAK AND CONTAIN SPILLAGE

If possible, try to plug the leak. Upright any upturned containers quickly. Block the path of the spillage to stormwater drainage and waterways using "Peat Sorb" booms or sandbags.

Contain and absorb the spill with "Peat Sorb" or similar inert, absorbent materials -even sand or vermiculite can do the job.

### CLEAN UP

Once the spillage has been contained and treated with "Peat Sorb" or other absorbent material, use a spark-free shovel or dustpan to load into properly labelled containers or drums and seal for disposal.

Paper towels or rags should not be used for volatile liquids, as they don't prevent further evaporation. (For very small spills, you can use paper towels if they are immediately placed in a solvent waste bin.)

Clean up any spillage residues using appropriate solvents and rags, then dispose rags safely with the collected spillage.

Ensure that you wash your hands and all other areas that may have been exposed to the spilled material.

### INFORM OTHERS

If contamination of sewers or waterways has occurred advise local emergency services. If any damage to property has occurred, contact the property manager.

Many workplaces have mandatory reporting of incidents. If so, follow the procedure as outlined in your workplace safety agreement as soon as possible after the spillage.

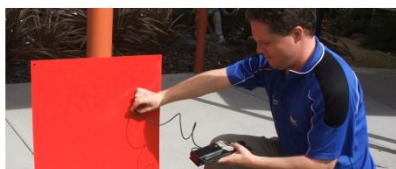
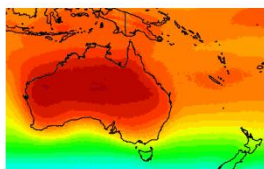
The spill might also have to be reported to local, state or federal authorities.



*Spill Control Station. Grab the Peat Sorb!*



*Peat Sorb positioned to block the spill. Quick action is required to position the plug to contain the spill*



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## SPECIFIC RECOMMENDATIONS

### FLAMMABLE LIQUID SPILLS

Flammable liquid spills are dangerous not only because of the obvious fire hazard but they also present an inhalation hazard. A flammable liquid spill is more difficult to contain because it spreads out and evaporates very quickly to reach high vapour concentrations. All it takes then is a spark, flame or other source of ignition to cause a fire or explosion. Spills of more than a litre of a flammable liquid should be considered emergency response situations. The following procedure is suggested for flammable liquid spills:

1. Immediately shut off any sources of ignition, such as pilot lights. For large, emergency spills, shut off power to any electrical equipment, lights, etc. in the spill area using a control outside the spill area (e.g fuse box) to prevent sparks setting off a fire or explosion.
2. Increase ventilation by opening doors and windows. If there are fire-proof fans exhausting to the outside, these should be turned on (if they are not already on). Air conditioning and ventilation systems should be turned off to prevent vapours from spreading to other areas of the building.
3. Evacuate the area of all people not directly involved with the clean-up operation.
4. Wear personal protection equipment such as solvent resistant gloves, goggles and air-purifying respirators (minor spills might not require a respirator). Cleaning up large spills requires positive-pressure self-contained breathing apparatus (SCBA) because of high vapour concentrations that could be present. Other protective clothing and equipment that might be needed for large spills include goggles and face shield, impermeable clothing, and boots.
5. Contain large spills by surrounding with using a "Peat Sorb" boom or similar materials. Block the path of the spillage to stormwater drainage and waterways. Absorb the spill with "Peat Sorb" or other inert and absorbent material -even sand or vermiculite can do the job. (Paper towels should not be used for anything other than tiny spills because the paper will aid evaporation. Place immediately in a solvent waste bin.)
6. Once the spillage has been contained and treated with absorbent material, use a spark-free shovel or dustpan to load into properly labelled containers or drums and seal for disposal. Paper towels or rags should not be used for volatile liquids as they don't prevent further evaporation. This material must be treated as hazardous waste under EPA regulations.

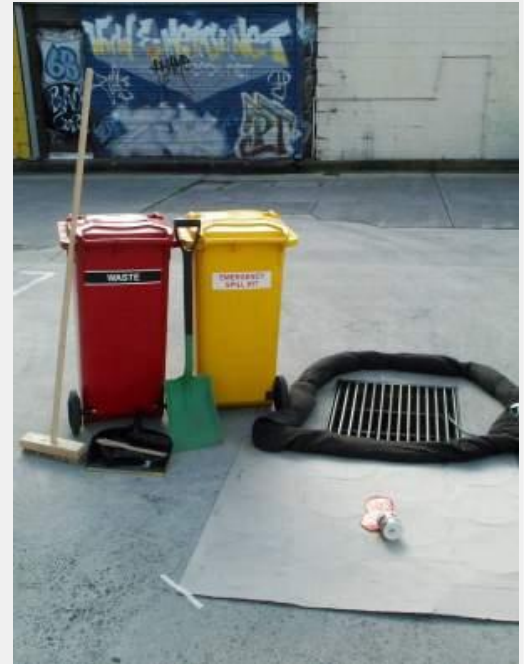
### WATER-BASED PAINT SPILLS

Latex paints and other water-based paints are not an inhalation hazard even though they may contain small amounts of organic solvents. Even large spills of water-based paints are not considered emergency response situations. The following are basic procedures for clean-up:

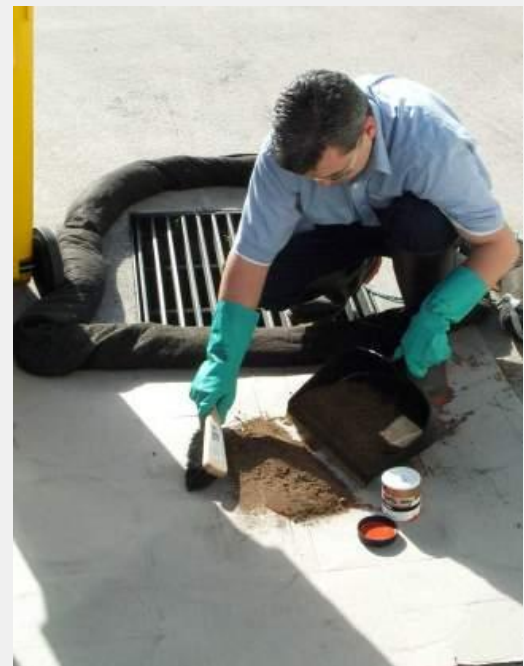
Gloves and goggles should be worn for cleanup.

1. Apply "Peat Sorb" or other inert and absorbent material.
2. Shovel into the hard waste bin.
3. Mop up residues with damp mop and bucket and allow to dry.

For more information, please contact the Dulux Protective Coatings Technical Consultant in your state.



*Peat Sorb surrounds a drainage point to slow the entry of liquid entering the drains*



*A responsible young man sweeps spent Peat Sorb into a dustpan before disposing in hard waste.*