



# CONSIDERATIONS FOR **CHOOSING A SPILL KIT**



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# CHOOSING THE CORRECT SPILL KIT

There are many questions that are regularly asked about Spill Kits. The most common questions we receive are:

- **What type of Spill Kit do I need for cleaning up...?**
- **What Size Spill Kit do I require?**
- **How Many Spill Kits should I have?**






These common enquiries both separately and together are all good questions. They are connected and lead to 'site' specific answers or requirements and have a number of factors to consider in order to get the right outcome for an individual work site. By taking into account these suggested considerations you will have a better understanding of narrowing down some Spill Kit options, understanding choice behind Size of Spill Kits required, leading to an understanding of working out how many Spill Kits the site may require. What is important to take on board, is a thorough on site Spill Risk Assessment is always recommended when ultimately determining specific and compliant requirements for a worksite.



# WHAT TYPE OF SPILL KIT?

Question to ask: What types of liquids are being stored on site?

This is absolutely key. Choosing the wrong type of spill kit can put staff at risk of injury, be detrimental to the environment and lead to greater cost and time in cleaning it up. We first need to start by identifying exactly what type of liquids are stored on site. Once identified, compatible Spill Kit options can be chosen. Below is a useful guide.

CLASSIFICATION	ENVIRONMENT	DESCRIPTION	TYPICAL SUBSTANCES
<b>GENERAL PURPOSE</b> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Spills on Hard Surfaces</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Clean-up of common workplace spills (oils &amp; water based liquids)</li> <li>Factories, Warehouses &amp; Workshops, Transport</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Oil &amp; water based liquids</li> <li>Non-hazardous liquids</li> <li>Paints, Inks, Glue, Coolants, Hydrocarbons including Oils, Fuels &amp; Grease.</li> </ul>
<b>HAZCHEM</b> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Spills on Hard Surfaces</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Clean-up of hazardous chemicals, oils, solvents &amp; fuels</li> <li>Workshops, Warehouse storage, Laboratories</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Class 5 &amp; 8 dangerous goods</li> <li>Most acids, caustics, coolants, solvents oil &amp; water based liquids</li> </ul>
<b>OIL &amp; FUEL</b> <small>HYDROCARBON</small> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Spills on Hard Surfaces</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Clean-up of non-water liquids</li> <li>Workshops, Mines, Manufacturing</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Oils, Fuels, Diesel Solvents and Grease</li> <li>Hydraulic Fluid</li> <li>Cooking Oils</li> </ul>
<b>OIL &amp; FUEL</b> <small>MARINE</small> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Spills on or near Water &amp; Rain events</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Spill Kit components repel water &amp; suitable for removing oil based liquids on water.</li> <li>Marinas and Boats</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Oils, Fuels &amp; Hydrocarbons, Diesel, oil based products.</li> </ul>
<b>BIOHAZARD</b> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Spills on Hard Surfaces</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Safe removal of body fluids</li> <li>Public areas, Education, Shopping Malls, Hotels, Transport, Medical</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Urine, Blood, Vomit, Saliva</li> </ul>



# WHAT SIZE SPILL KIT?

**Question to ask: What is the volume of the worst case spill scenario on site?**

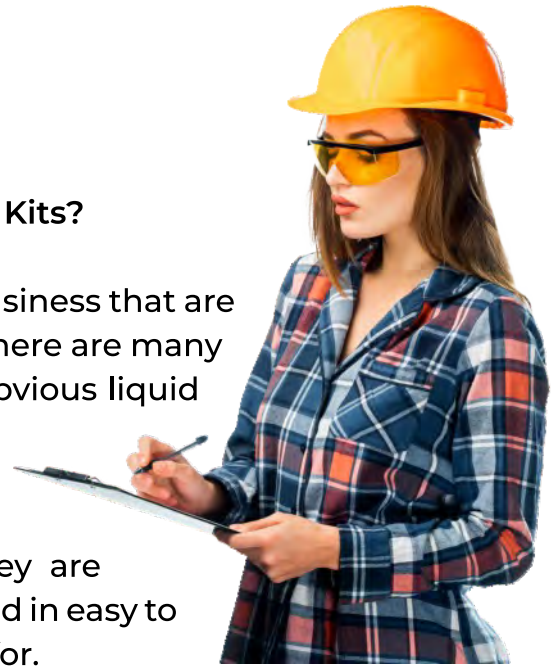
Take into consideration holding tanks, the largest amount of liquid that could be spilled by a vessel, container, drum or other liquid storage means utilised on site. A small site with only a couple of steel drums being stored may have a worst case scenario of the entire contents of 1 drum emptying with a maximum volume of 205L. This may lead their decision to a compatible Spill Kit capable of absorbing greater than 205L of liquid to ensure their potential spill can be taken care of.

But all is not necessarily this logical for all sites and a good assessment can also identify other spill control measures that need to be put into place to support the use of spill kits. For very large volumes of liquid held on site, it's not always practical to be able to absorb the total volume of a potential spill. Spill Kits are also used effectively in conjunction with other spill control measures and especially for final clean-ups. Storage areas that are or require to be bunded with Floor Bunding, Temporary Bunds or Spill Pallet Bunds for example may use pumps to transfer a spill into an appropriate vessel for disposal leaving a small amount of liquid to be cleaned up with a lower size Spill Kit.

Sites that regularly decant liquids, at risk of small drips and leaks from machinery or simply need to keep a Spill Kit on board a transport vehicle may easily be able to use small size Spill Kits 80L or bellow. However, it's all about assessing the volume of worst possible scenario of liquid spilling to determine size and if sites consider locating Spill Kits into Zones.



# HOW MANY SPILL KITS?



**Question to ask: What locations do I need to place Spill Kits?**

Consideration must be given to all the areas of your business that are at risk of being affected by a chemical or liquid spill. There are many ways that spills can occur and even outside of very obvious liquid storage areas. Take into consideration also the placement of Spill Kits. In the event of a spill there is no time for staff to be wasting time searching for a Spill Kit or to have to access a location far from where they are working where the spill has taken place. Spill Kits placed in easy to access or reach locations is an important factor to plan for.

Many sites will have Spill Kits placed in areas they have assessed as being most vulnerable. This may include:

- Liquid storage areas
- Loading docks
- Liquid transfer stations
- Close to higher risk machinery
- Vehicles
- On board commercial Marine Craft
- Liquid collection areas

Small sites through Risk Assessment may not require having Spill Kits in every location. For some of these sites it may be appropriate and compliant to have fewer but larger size Spill Kits on wheels that can easily be moved into an area in the event of a spill due to the compact work space environment and accessibility.

However, it is through a concise and proper Risk Assessment you should be able to properly identify and determine your answers to:

- The right Type of Spill Kit
- The right size Spill Kits
- How many Spill Kits are required through to correct Spill Kit placement.

A detailed Risk Assessment of the entire worksite that comes into contact with liquid pollutants can best ensure safety, the environment and compliance is taken care of with a documented and implemented process in the best way possible.



# GREAT QUESTIONS TO CONSIDER



- What Types of Liquids are being stored?
- Are there stored liquids in multiple locations?
- What would cause a spill?
- Are liquids decanted or transferred on site?
- Are liquid pollutants loaded and unloaded on site?
- Is machinery on site at risk of leaking or dripping liquid pollutants
- Are the potential of burst pipes and leaks a consideration?
- What is the volume of the worst case spill scenario on site?
- Is secondary containment utilised on site? (e.g., Temporary Bunds, Floor Bunding, Spill Pallet Bunds)
- Are Stormwater inlets located on site and close to loading, storage and transfer areas?
- Is there a plan for auditing and maintaining Spill Kits?
- Staff trained in the use of Spill Kits?
- Spill incident reporting in place?

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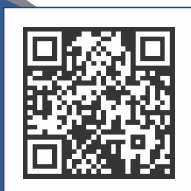
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