

**When you spill a pesticide, use
the four C's to protect your
drinking water!**



**A spilled hazardous product can
endanger anyone who comes
into contact with it. If it is not
properly cleaned up, it can harm
people, plants or animals, and
enter surface or groundwater.**

Groundwater: Everyone's Resource, Everyone's Responsibility

For additional information, contact:

Michigan Groundwater
Stewardship Program
Address:
Michigan Department of Agriculture
P.O. Box 30017
Lansing, MI 48909
Telephone: (517) 335-6529
Web site: www.mda.state.mi/us/environm/groundwater/index.html

Or contact your local MSU Extension or
Conservation District office for information
about local programs.



A cooperative effort between:
Michigan Department of Agriculture
Michigan State University Extension
USDA Natural Resource Conservation Service
Michigan Conservation Districts
AmeriCorps National Service

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Know the Drill — Clean up a Spill!



**Do you know what to do if you
spill a hazardous product?**

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Everyone's Responsibility**

What you should do when you have a spill:

1. Caution

Always assess the dangers of spill or release response first. If you cannot control and/or contain the spill without endangering your health or safety, then immediately call 911.

2. Control

Control the source of the spill or release, if possible. Plug leaks or set containers upright. Always use personal protection gear (neoprene gloves, long-sleeved shirt and long pants, face mask or goggles) when handling dangerous chemicals.

3. Contain

Contain the spill to a small area, away from groundwater or surface water. The spill could reach groundwater or surface water if it soaks into the soil or if it gets into a ditch, wetland or open water such as a pond or stream. Spills that reach water can contaminate wells, kill fish and wildlife, and be very costly to clean up.

4. Clean up

All spills must be cleaned up. **Do not hose down the spill area.** Water will spread the pesticide or fertilizer, creating a wider area of contamination.

For dry spills:

Sweep up or vacuum up spilled product. Use collected product as originally intended.

For wet spills:

1) Capture spill with absorbent material such as **pet litter, soil, sawdust or newspaper.**

2) Dispose of contaminated absorbent material.

Best — Take to local household hazardous waste collection program or take to a regional Clean Sweep collection site.

Good — Bag up for disposal with household trash. Note: this option is acceptable but provides less environmental protection than the other two.

For mercury:

Do not try to clean up spilled mercury yourself. Call your local health department for help with a mercury spill.

Pesticide exposure?

- Follow cautionary statements on the pesticide label.
- Call local emergency response.
- Or call **Poison Control System: 1-800-222-1222.**

You can prevent spills:

- Never leave a spray tank unattended when it contains product.
- Maintain equipment to avoid leaky hose connections or nozzles.
- Consider ready-to-use products that don't require mixing and loading.
- Consider hiring a professional pesticide and fertilizer applicator.
- Store pesticides and fertilizers in a secure location.
- Take unwanted pesticides to Clean Sweep sites for proper disposal.