



Sustainability Alert

Environmental Spills

Issued 8 April 2026

Context:

Environmental spills can pose significant health, safety, and environmental risks. RMIT University aims to ensure all staff and contractors are aware of the correct procedures for responding to spills, particularly those involving hazardous materials. Immediate and correct action is crucial to minimise contamination and protect the environment.

General Environmental Duty (GED):

As per the General Environmental Duty (GED) under the Environment Protection Act, everyone in Victoria must take reasonable actions to prevent environmental harm. This applies directly to managing and responding to hazardous material spills. All individuals are expected to act responsibly and take prompt steps to mitigate any potential environmental impacts.

Compliance with EPA Legislation:

Under the Environment Protection Act, there are strict guidelines regarding the handling, containment, and disposal of hazardous materials. Failing to properly manage an environmental spill can result in serious legal and financial consequences. Adherence to EPA regulations is essential in ensuring that no toxic or hazardous materials are released into the environment.

Actions:

1. **Immediate Response:** Upon discovering a spill, immediately contain the spill using absorbent materials or spill containment kits available on-site. Ensure your safety and that of others before engaging in clean-up activities, including wearing appropriate PPE.
2. **Reporting:** All spills must be reported immediately to the Property Services Desk (03 9925 2111) and recorded in our incident management system SafetyNow (<https://www.rmit.edu.au/about/our-values/health-safety-wellbeing/global-safety-model/risk-incident-management/incident-management-investigation>).
3. **Disposal of Waste:** Collect contaminated materials and dispose of them according to hazardous waste disposal procedures. Do not dispose of waste in regular bins or drains.
4. **Follow-Up Monitoring:** If required conduct air or soil quality monitoring as needed to ensure no residual contamination remains.

Questions:

If there are any questions on the above, please contact the Property Services, Sustainability Team:

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