

SAFETY & STORAGE

Would your shop pass an EPA inspection? Know the mandates for pesticide containment and storage before you build. Here's an introduction.

Would you pass a Worker Protection inspection for safe chemical storage? If you *think* you have a problem, you probably *do*. Money spent *before* a possible inspection to comply will be saved many times over *after* the inspection.

Some self-contained sheds can be purchased for as little as \$5,000. Tips to remember when storing pesticides:

- ▶ Liquid and dry pesticides should be stored in separate areas, away from offices and workshops.

- ▶ Primary containment is used for storing and mixing concentrated pesticides. The area must be diked. Flooring should be made of impermeable materials like concrete, synthetic materials and steel with no drain, but curbing to retain spilled materials. The floor and dikes must be treated and/or coated with water-tight, wear-resistant materials that are also resistant to chemical corrosion.

- ▶ A ventilator fan that exhausts to the outside of the building is mandatory. The ventilation should go on automatically when the door is opened or the lights turned on.

- ▶ Shelving should be expanded metal with corrosion-resistant coating.

- ▶ Walls should be made of concrete block or steel, and ceiling materials should be fire-resistant.

- ▶ The door should have a lock, and "Warning: Pesticides" signs should be posted.

- ▶ Emergency showers, at least one eyewash station and personal safety equipment should be located outside of the storage room on the wall next to the door.

- ▶ Finally, a kit with absorbent material (cat litter, soil, etc.), a shovel, a broom and buckets—outside of the stor-

age room—should be readily available in case of a spill.

Secondary containment is used for:

- storing and parking spray rigs or trucks,
- loading or fill operations with dilute pesticide mixes and fertilizers, and
- washing and rinsing pesticide residues from application equipment and vehicles.

Fill times can be reduced when primary and secondary containment areas are integrated correctly. Mishandling and accidental spills can also be reduced, as can unnecessary exposure to staff and wasted products.

A proper containment/storage system protects outside water systems from hazardous materials with a back-flow protection device at the main source.

How you will benefit:

- 1) \$8000-\$10,000 in annual chemical waste disposal.

- 2) Reduced exposure to spills, other accidents and cleanup.

- 3) Savings and/or reduction of insurance premiums.

- 4) Environmental benefits, such as reduced or eliminated point source contamination to groundwater, sewer and water systems.

- 5) Employee safety is enhanced, and the day-to-day business operation is simplified and ordered.

—Sources: *Containment System Design* by Fred Haskett, and the Florida Department of Agriculture & Consumer Services. To order the Haskett book, call Advanstar Marketing Services, (800) 736-3665.

STORAGE AND SAFETY PRODUCTS FOR THE GREEN INDUSTRY

Manufacturer	Circle No.	Product
Justrite	201	New Drum Management System meets environmental protection requirements and organizes drum storage for maximum safety, efficiency and productivity.
Direct Safety Co.	202	Wide variety of products including chemical resistant gloves and clothing, waste disposal and storage containers, spill control, emergency showers, safe lighting and safety training.
EarthSafe	203	Above-ground storage tanks for fire safety and environmental regulation compliance when dispensing fuel and storing oil in bulk.
Elvex Corp.	204	Personal protection products to guide against injury from power equipment; hearing protection.
Safety Storage, Inc.	205	Storage building and lockers for hazardous materials. Now with stainless steel interiors for corrosive material storage.
Spectrum Technologies	206	Spill absorbent materials.
Spraying Systems Co.	207	Teejet Pesticide Safety Kit contains face shield, gloves, apron and a nozzle cleaning brush.
J.V. Mfg. Co.	208	Spill absorbent materials in kit form (pads, socks, absorbents, etc.) and complete line of products to identify, contain and treat hazardous spills. Brochures available.