

Contaminated Land

- Contaminated land is land that has been polluted with harmful substances.
- Unlike the pollution of surface watercourses, ground contamination has a potentially long-term impact.
- Contamination causes risk to health and the environment.
- Small amounts of heavy organic compounds like pesticides, dyes, solvents or paints, oils, and metals can pollute land.
- Small spills, over a long period of time can accumulate to become a major problem.
- Health problems can be traced to contaminated sites and can also lead to prosecution.
- Ground contamination originates from poor storage, handling and disposal of chemicals and fuel.

All these problems can be avoided by using good environmental controls and practices:

- Maintain good housekeeping.
- Dispose of all waste types into correct containers.
- Report any spills immediately and take action using clean up facilities where necessary.
- Storage areas and tanks must have adequate bunding around them. The bund capacity **MUST** be not less than 110%.
- Containers and barrels containing substances such as petroleum, oil or chemicals **MUST** be returned to the correct storage area at the end of any working day.
- Any open containers must be covered to avoid potential spills and vandalism.
- Dispose of empty containers and drums into the correct waste facilities as they always retain some liquid and could cause ground contamination.

Did you know?

Local authorities are inspecting sites across England and Wales to identify where the land is contaminated. It is expected that as many as 100,000 sites are contaminated, this almost 1% of the land area of Great Britain.



- Q. What causes land contamination?**
- Q. What action should you take if you cause an oil spillage?**
- Q. Why do we cover open containers?**