



Minnesota
Pollution
Control
Agency

Spill debris disposal options

Cleanup/Emergency Response 4-03 • October 2009

Material	Reuse	Thermal treat *	Incinerate	Land apply	WWTP**	Compost
Floor Dry, kitty litter, sand or other inorganic materials	X	X	X	X		X
Corn cobs, peat moss or other organic materials	X		X	X		X
Synthetic sorbents (booms, pads, etc.)	X		X			
Oil-water mixtures	X				X	
Recovered oil	X		X			

* Thermal treat = thermal treatment at permitted asphalt plants

** WWTP = wastewater-treatment plant

This fact sheet outlines the many disposal options that exist for petroleum-contaminated debris or waste after a spill.

It is the responsibility of the spiller to ensure an effective cleanup and proper management of all wastes generated. With the exception of used oil, waste generated from petroleum spills that have been reported and cleaned up immediately are exempt from Minnesota's Hazardous Waste Rules.

Waste from used oil spills must be sent to a facility for energy recovery.

Reuse

Many used sorbent materials can be dried and reused on future spills. If the sorbent material was not saturated and the quantity is manageable, store the sorbent in a tight container, such as a drum or covered trash can, for future reuse. Large quantities of saturated sorbent cannot be reused. Oil and oil-water mixtures can be separated and recycled by an oil-recycling company.

Thermal treatment

The Minnesota Pollution Control Agency (MPCA) permits asphalt

Permitted Municipal Waste Combustors		
Alexandria Peter Olmscheid Pope-Douglas Solid Waste 2110 S. Jefferson Alexandria, MN 56308 (320) 762-2381 ext. 213	Fosston Bill Wilson, Solid Waste Officer Polk County P.O. Box 27 Crookston, MN 56716 (218) 281-6445	Minneapolis John Sigmond Covanta Hennepin Energy Resource Corp. 505 65th Ave. N. Minneapolis, MN 55405 (612) 332-9423
Perham Brian Schmidt Perham Resource Recovery Facility 201 6th Ave., NE Perham, MN 56573 (218) 346-4404	Red Wing Jeff Hoppert City of Red Wing P.O. Box 34 Red Wing, MN 55066 (651) 388-6734	Rochester Olmsted County Public Works 2122 Campus Dr., SE Rochester, MN 55904 (507) 285-8231 www.co.olmsted.mn.us/health/industrial_waste.asp

plants and similar facilities to treat petroleum-contaminated soils. These facilities use high temperatures to treat the soil and then use it for construction projects. For a listing of thermal treatment facilities in Minnesota, see the [Thermal treatment of petroleum-contaminated soil](#) fact sheet.

Incineration

This method of disposal totally destroys wastes. In Minnesota, there are several permitted municipal waste combustors (see table above). Some of these facilities may incinerate oil-soaked sorbent or similar organic materials. Some incinerators cannot burn used, oil-soaked sorbent. Contact the plant operators for more information.

Land application

The MPCA allows application of petroleum-contaminated soils to native soils for biodegradation treatment. The MPCA staff has guidance for thin-spreading of small quantities, 10 cubic yards or less. There are rules for the land treatment of up to 1,500 cubic yards of contaminated soil. For land-treatment of larger quantities of soil, a permit must be obtained from the MPCA. For guidance, request the following MPCA fact sheets:

- [Thin-spreading small quantities of petroleum-contaminated soils](#)
- [Land Treatment of Petroleum Contaminated Soil: Land Treatment Sites](#)
- [Permit Application for a Land Treatment Facility](#)

Wastewater-treatment plant (WWTP)

Some wastewater-treatment plants are able to effectively treat petroleum-contaminated water. If a one-time discharge is desired, contact your local WWTP operator after consulting with the MPCA Emergency Response Team staff. In the Twin Cities metropolitan area, call Metropolitan Council Environmental Services at (651) 602-4702.

Landfill

Some municipal and industrial solid waste landfills can accept petroleum-contaminated soil and/or sorbents for disposal. Call your local facility for approval and protocols.

Composting

Composting is the controlled microbial degradation of petroleum-contaminated soil. This is optimized by constructing the pile in a manner that promotes the vigorous growth of bacteria and fungi. For specific guidance, see the [Composting of petroleum-contaminated soil](#) fact sheet.

For more information on spill reporting, prevention, cleanup and disposal, call the MPCA at (651) 296-6300 or (800) 657-3864 and ask for a member of the Emergency Response Team or see the publications on the Internet at www.pca.state.mn.us/cleanup/pubs/ertpubs.html. More information is also available at the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Web site at www.epa.gov/oilspill/.