

Thin spreading small quantities of petroleum-contaminated soil

Petroleum Remediation Program

This guidance is for the disposal of small quantities, less than 10 cubic yards, of petroleum-contaminated soil (PCS). The following conditions need to be met in order to thin spread PCS. If these conditions are not met, approval is automatically revoked. The Minnesota Pollution Control Agency's (MPCA) Petroleum Remediation Program project manager gives approval verbally. The responsible party is required to ensure that an adequate cleanup and disposal of PCS has occurred.

If the quantity of PCS is greater than 10 cubic yards, and if the responsible party chooses to spread the PCS at a land treatment site, they must obtain preapproval from the MPCA. The MPCA has rules for land treatment sites that accept up to 1,500 cubic yards of PCS.

Storage

Place stored PCS prior to thin spreading in covered drums or on an impervious surface covered with plastic.

Permission from landowner

The property owner must give permission to thin spread PCS on their property.

Local and county ordinances

Contact local units of government prior to thin spreading PCS to learn and observe any ordinances or local requirements that pertain to thin spreading.

City or township notifications and approvals

If the PCS will be thin spread within a different city or township than where it originated, give the receiving city or township 60 days to review the request and provide a recommendation to the MPCA. This applies to organized and unorganized townships receiving PCS generated outside their borders. If the PCS was generated within the same city or township, these local approval rules do not apply.

Site conditions

The application site must be in a relatively isolated area with setback distances of 200 feet from surface waters, drinking water wells, sewers, and places of habitation. The PCS should have moderate to high fertility and the land slope should be less than 6%.

Timing

Thin spreading application of PCS is only allowed between April 1 and November 1.

Application

Apply the PCS at a maximum thickness of two inches. After application, work the PCS into the native soil by disking, raking, blading, or equivalent methods. The application site must be observed for visual contamination for a minimum of one year or until biodegradation has occurred.

PCS generated from petroleum releases that were reported and cleaned up immediately are exempt from Minnesota's hazardous waste rules, except soils containing used oil.