



LaRC ENVIRONMENTAL MINUTE

Standard Practice and Environmental Engineering Branch (SPEEB)

Storage Tanks

SECONDARY CONTAINMENT

A small amount of oil from a leaking storage tank can quickly contaminate a lot of drinking water.

Some types of equipment are predictable sources of oil leaks, such as when a hydraulic hose ruptures. Using secondary containment (think of a “big bathtub”) to catch a leak keeps the oil out of the environment and is less expensive than environmental remediation afterwards.

Secondary containment guidelines:

- 55 gallons or more of a petroleum product needs secondary containment
- Tanks need double walls or a containment basin
- Drums and buckets can be placed on a spill pallet or in a containment area
- Portable generators are stored in a containment basin under the shed roof at B1199, and have portable containment basins with a floating lip, which rises and floats if the containment fills with oil
- Tanker trucks at the LaRC hangar and the steam plant are parked in containment areas
- Outdoor containment areas collect rain water. Before draining any rainwater, inspect to be sure it does not contain oil (no rainbow sheen), and keep a record of this inspection.

To learn more about how NASA Langley helps protect the environment, you can attend “Hazardous Waste and Spill Response” training during the Safety Health and Awareness Week (SHAW).

Thank you for helping to keep our rivers and oceans clean!



Two product drums located on an spill pallet for secondary containment.