



Preventing Stormwater Contamination

Untreated stormwater is channeled into local waterways through a network of pipes, drains, and inlets. Given its untreated nature, this can result in the direct transport of contaminants like oil, oily debris, wastewater, chemicals, and any discarded trash or debris near these entry points.

Consequently, these discharges can pollute ecosystems and create hazardous conditions for both humans and wildlife.

LaRC's stormwater drains directly into three main Chesapeake Bay waterways: Brick Kiln Creek, Tabbs Creek, and the Back River. These waterways are regulated by the state and require the Center to meet certain compliance criteria.

At LaRC, a significant focus on preventing stormwater contamination revolves around addressing issues related to equipment leaks and failures. When utilizing any motorized equipment or machinery on the premises, it is crucial to adhere to specific steps to prevent contaminants from seeping into the stormwater system.



Steps to Prevent Equipment Spills and Leaks

1

Identify the location of stormwater drains, keep spill kits nearby, complete pre-operational checklists, and pay close attention to drip pans (if applicable) to detect and prevent any illicit discharges.

2

Thoroughly inspecting the work area is essential. Watch for signs of leakage, such as oily stains and sheens on surfaces from hydraulic lines or machine parts. Monitoring equipment for alarms, gauges, and unusual sounds (like 'engine knocking') is vital.

3

Any identified issues, leaks, or spills should be promptly reported to the Facility Coordinator (FC) or Facility Environmental Coordinator (FEC) for immediate action to prevent illicit discharges into LaRC's stormwater connections.

Additionally, before introducing any new facility equipment, it is mandatory that an LF461 be submitted to the Environmental Management Office. The LF461 process ensures that environmental compliance is upheld by providing facilities with applicable requirements, allowing them to prepare for potential impacts, and implement appropriate operational procedures before equipment delivery and installation.

Spill Response Steps



STEP 1

ASSESS

Determine the size of the spill.

- Incidental or Small Spills - you may clean up yourself (if comfortable doing so).
- Emergency or Large Spills – **STOP** and notify the NASA Langley Emergency Dispatcher: **Center Landline Phone: 911 / Cell Phone: (757) 864-2222**



STEP 2

IDENTIFY

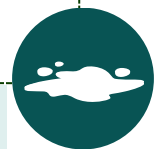
Identify the spilled material and how much was spilled. Identify if the spilled material has potential to affect human health or has entered the environment through a stormwater connection or grassy area.



STEP 3

PERSONAL PROTECTIVE EQUIPMENT (PPE)

Always wear the correct PPE when cleaning up spills. You can refer to the Safety Data Sheet (SDS) of the spilled material for information on PPE and other hazards.



STEP 4

CONTAIN THE SPILL

- Locate nearest spill kit; use absorbents to contain the spill.
- Divert the spill away from any stormwater connections and other waterways by using items found in the spill kit (absorbent socks, pads, etc..)



STEP 5

STOP THE SOURCE

IF this hasn't already happened, locate and safely stop the source of the illicit discharge. Most of the time stopping the source is as simple as setting a container upright, plugging a leak, or closing a valve.

Click [here](#) to view the Center's Integrated Spill Contingency Plan (ISCP).



Let's work together to keep our water clean!

**For water quality concerns at Langley Research
Center (LaRC) call:**

**Ande Remington (757.864.8332),
Sarat Calamur (757.864.4791), or
James Griczin (757.864.5030)**

**In an emergency or spill, always call 911 (from a
Center phone) or 757.864.2222 (from a cell
phone).**