

Spill Clean Up Demonstration

We have developed a number of techniques for demonstrating the correct use of spill clean up products for both training and sales presentations. For acid type spills, we use vinegar, which is dilute acetic acid. Since it is mild and biodegradable, there is no disposal problem. When used with SorbaSet S™, it will react with foaming and be neutralized as would any spilled acid. However, the reaction is mild and lends itself to both indoor and outdoor demonstrations. The resultant dry powder can be picked up and handled in the same manner as an industrial spill.

For alkali demonstrations, we use household ammonia diluted with 3 parts water. While the odor is still there, it is not overwhelming and when treated with SorbaSet B™ will react as a stronger alkali. The suppression of the odor by the SorbaSet B™ is also an impressive example of the SorbaSet™ technology.

We have always felt that the use of plain water in demonstrating spill clean up techniques is misleading and often leads to a lackadaisical attitude by the trainee later in actual practice. We have always stressed the danger of the chemicals that are being handled.

In all cases our preferred technique is to surround the spill with the appropriate SorbaSet™ in either boom or powder form. The powder is sifted around the spill to form a dike. For smaller spills, booms and pillows are the most convenient method. After surrounding the spill, the boom is encircled to pick up all the spill. Small remaining amounts may be picked up using a pillow. For larger spills, dike the spill with powder as outlined above and squeegee inwards adding more powder if needed. The set pillow or dry powder may be picked up using shovels. Even though SorbaSet™ treated wastes have been neutralized, it is recommended that they be treated as if they were still corrosive. Spill areas should be flushed with large amounts of water after dry material removal.

For spills of liquids that are non-corrosive and lend themselves to recovery, we recommend the use of STOP-IT!™ sorbent booms and/or particulate. Since both forms of STOP-IT!™ can be easily wrung out, they lend themselves to the collection of liquids that are to be reused, recycled, incinerated, or otherwise disposed of. They are NOT for use on highly aggressive or corrosive spills of acids or alkalis (below pH 2 or above pH 12). While STOP-IT!™ is nonselective, and will absorb both water and oil types, for oil, solvents and fuel spills on porous surfaces such as earth or when closely adjacent to streams, storm drains or other sensitive areas, the use of SorbaSolv™ is highly recommended.

SorbaSolv™ is a water repellent product that will separate oil from water. Thus is the case where a fuel spill requires wetting down with water the use of either SorbaSolv™ booms or particulate which will allow pick up of the spill while allowing wash water to pass.

Land applications of both SorbaSolv™ and STOP-IT!™ are similar. The spill may be surrounded by a boom or loose particulate and handled as outlined above. Both types

of particulate gel a spill, enabling it to be picked up with shovels or squeegeed. For very large area spills, the particulate may be sprayed on using lawn vacuums or snow blowers.