

Hierarchy of Spill Controls

The hierarchy of spill controls is a structured approach used in Australian workplaces to manage and mitigate spill risks. It aligns with the broader WHS hierarchy of controls and is supported by EPA guidelines and standards such as AS/NZS 3833:2007 and AS/NZS 1940:2017.

PRODUCT MAPPING WITH COMPLIANCE

CONTROL LEVEL	PURPOSE	AKUNA PRODUCTS	EXAMPLE USE CASES	COMPLIANCE REFERENCE
1. Elimination 	Remove the hazard entirely	Advisory only	Recommend replacing solvent-based cleaners with water-based alternatives	WHS Regulation 36(a) – Eliminate risk where reasonably practicable
2. Substitution 	Use safer alternatives	Advisory only	Suggest using absorbents made from recycled or biodegradable materials	WHS Regulation 36(b) – Substitute hazardous substances
3. Engineering Controls 	Physically isolate or contain the hazard	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Bunding systems - Spill pallets - Drain covers - Marine booms - Silt curtains 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Prevent fuel spills from reaching stormwater drains - Contain oil leaks from machinery - Protect waterways during construction 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - AS/NZS 1940:2017 Clause 5.9 – Bunding - AS/NZS 3833:2007 Clause 4.2 Segregation and containment - EPA NSW Guidelines – Secondary containment
4. Administrative Controls 	Change work practices to reduce risk	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Spill response plans - Site audit tools - Training packages - Signage 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Train staff on spill response - Conduct monthly spill kit inspections - Display spill procedure signage 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - WHS Regulation 39 – Information, training and instruction - EPA PIRMP Guidelines - Pollution incident response
5. PPE 	Protect workers from exposure	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Gloves - Goggles - Protective suits - Respirators (if included) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Clean up chemical spills safely - Handle contaminated absorbents - Respond to fuel leaks in confined spaces 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - WHS Regulation 44 – Provision of PPE - AS/NZS 1337 & 2161 – Eye and hand