



County of Yolo

DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNITY SERVICES

Environmental Health Division

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Septic Pumper Truck Spill Kit Requirements

Sewage spills are an infrequent occurrence, but are an important public health issue that should always be considered. Raw sewage contains biological agents such as bacteria, viruses, fungi, and parasites that can cause serious illness and even death. If you have a sewage spill, proper cleaning and disinfecting procedures should be followed to prevent illness. Basic procedures for clean-up are listed on the other side of this handout.

In an emergency where you are unable to contain and cleanup a spill, call 911. Any sewage discharge at 1,000 gallons or more entering into or onto state waters must be reported to Cal OES at (800) 852-7550.

The following items shall be included on the truck at all times:

1. **Personal protection equipment:**

Gloves, Rubber boots, Eye protection



2. **Pigs** – a containment tool to prevent the movement of wastewater liquids to unwanted areas and to stop the spill from entering storm drains or other natural surface waters.



3. **Absorbent material** – to absorb wastewater liquid (kitty litter works well).



4. **Shovel** – to pick up contaminated absorbent material and solids.

5. **Garbage bags** – to throw away solids and absorbent pigs.



6. **5-gallon bucket** – to contain solids and/or tools needing disinfection after spill.

7. **Bleach** – ¼ cup to 1 gallon water will disinfect area after solids are removed.



8. **Lime** – to be used if near surface water or other waterways to disinfect area after solids are removed. Always follow container label.

Standard Procedures for Cleaning Up Domestic Wastewater (Sewage) Spills

- If the area in which the spill occurred is accessible to the public or domestic pets, the contaminated area must be clearly marked or cordoned off to restrict access. Keep children and interested bystanders away from cleanup activities.
- Protective clothing (at a minimum, rubber or latex gloves and rubber boots) should be worn when cleaning up a sewage spill. (Dispose of gloves and wash rubber boots when leaving spill site).
- Lime may be applied to the affected area but should only be used or applied by people experienced in using this material and excess lime must be removed after the sewage has been removed. Please note that hydrated lime is a caustic material and is dangerous to handle and apply. Follow directions on the label.
- Do not mix cleaning / disinfecting products or chemicals. Cleaning products can react with one another to produce toxic vapor or liquid substances.
- If the spilled material can't be recovered using hand tools, a commercial vacuum/pump truck should be called to remove all visible liquid and solid material.
- When the area is visibly clean, either a chlorine / water solution (using Clorox or a bleach that has "sanitizes" or "kills germs" on the label) or hydrated lime should be applied to the spill area to disinfect. To make a 5% chlorine solution, add 1/4 cup Clorox bleach to one (1) gallon of water.
- If the spill occurred in a heavily populated area and odor may be an issue or is within 100 feet of surface water, hydrated lime should be applied to the area in place of chlorine bleach. Enough hydrated lime should be applied to raise the pH to at least 12. By raising the pH to 12 for at least 1 hour, the area will be disinfected. Because lime is a caustic material, access to the area treated with lime must be restricted during the disinfection period. If using lime, any residual must also be cleaned up. Lime is also highly corrosive to aluminum, so don't use where aluminum is present – use chlorine.
- After the spill area has been cleansed (24 hours after the chlorine solution or hydrated lime has been applied) and any residual lime removed, the barriers may be removed and access to the area restored.