



# Chemical Management

### Chemical storage

- ◆ Ensure cleaning chemicals are stored in sealed chemical-resistant containers.
- ◆ Regularly check the condition of all chemical storage containers to ensure they are free from leaks and the lids are fastened tightly when not in use.
- ◆ Store chemicals on sealed ground (such as reinforced concrete) to prevent spilled materials from leaching into the soil or groundwater. Ideally chemical storage areas should have perimeter bunds. A bund is a small wall or barrier that restricts the flow of substances and contains them in a particular area.
- ◆ Store chemicals undercover and ensure storage areas do not drain or slope to stormwater outlets. This will ensure that storage materials cannot collect, contaminate and mix with rainwater.
- ◆ Chemicals that are stored and transported in service vehicles should be secure, upright and immobile at all times.
- ◆ Keep all storage areas clean and uncluttered and ensure they are well ventilated.
- ◆ Minimise the amount of chemicals stored by only storing what you need.
- ◆ Store different types of chemicals in separate containers and if necessary in separate designated areas to ensure chemicals cannot react with each other. Ensure each container is clearly labelled with the name of the chemical it contains, appropriate clean up and first aid procedures.
- ◆ Ensure up-to-date Material Safety Data Sheets (MSDS) are held on all sites (including service vehicles) for all chemicals stored and used. MSDS offer a variety of information on the ingredients and physical properties of a product, health effects and first-aid instructions, precautions for use, safe handling and storage information and emergency procedures. MSDS are available from your chemical supplier.

### Chemical handling and use

- ◆ Chemicals should be used at the concentrations recommended by the manufacturer or less (never more). Using high concentrations of chemicals does not only increase the risk of harm to human and environmental health, it decreases the quality of the job as chemical overuse can leave residues.
- ◆ A suitable method for dispensing chemicals (eg. funnels, measuring containers, dispensing systems) should be implemented to reduce the risk of spills and prevent chemical overuse.
- ◆ Where chemicals are in constant use ie. where decanting, dispensing and mixing of chemicals occurs, place drip trays or a similar containment system to capture and recover any spilt material.
- ◆ Ensure all staff are trained in chemical handling and use.
- ◆ Ensure any chemicals that are past their use by date or are no longer being used are disposed of appropriately by a licensed liquid waste contractor. Refer to the *Products and Services Directory* for details of liquid waste contractors (look under Hazardous Waste Removal).

*For further information about the Green Stamp program and how to incorporate environmental best management practices in your cleaning business, please contact;*

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