












SEPTIC PUMPER TRUCK SPILL GUIDELINES

While sewage spills are infrequent, it's important to have procedures in place in the event of a spill. Raw sewage contains biological agents such as bacteria, viruses, fungi, and parasites that can cause serious illness or death. If a sewage spill occurs, proper cleaning and disinfecting procedures must be followed to protect public health. This guide provides a list of cleanup materials and procedures to mitigate a spill.

SEPTIC PUMPER TRUCK SPILL KIT MATERIALS

All work vehicles must be equipped with the following items at all times:

Material	Purpose
Personal protective equipment (PPE): gloves, rubber boots, goggles/glasses 	Protect skin and eyes from biological and chemical exposure
Pigs 	Stop the movement of wastewater liquids to unwanted areas and prevent the spill from entering storm drains or surface waters
Absorbent material 	Absorb wastewater liquid (cat litter, sawdust, absorbent pads, etc.)
Shovel 	Pick up contaminated absorbent material and solids
Garbage bags	Contain and dispose of solids and absorbent pigs

	
<p>5-gallon buckets</p> 	<p>Contain solids and/or tools needing disinfection after spill, mix chemicals needed to disinfect spill area</p>
<p>Plastic measuring cup</p> 	<p>Measure chemicals needed to disinfect materials and/or spill area</p>
<p>Bleach</p> 	<p>Disinfect areas not near waterways after solids are removed with $\frac{3}{4}$ cup bleach to 1 gallon water</p>
<p>Lime</p> 	<p>Disinfect areas near surface water or other waterways after solids are removed</p>

PROCEDURES FOR DOMESTIC WASTERWATER & SEWAGE SPILL CLEANUP

1. If the spill occurred in an area accessible to the public or domestic pets, the contaminated area must be clearly marked or cordoned off to restrict access. Keep children and bystanders away from cleanup activities.
2. Wear protective clothing (rubber/latex gloves, rubber boots, and protective eyewear) when cleaning up a sewage or wastewater spill. Dispose of gloves and wash rubber boots before leaving the spill site.
3. 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.

4. Do not mix cleaning/disinfecting products or chemicals. Cleaning products can react with one another to produce toxic vapors or liquids.

5. When the area is visibly clean (all solids and liquids have been removed), sanitize the area using a chlorine bleach or hydrated lime (if near a waterway) solution.

Bleach: Make a 5% solution by mixing 3/4 cup chlorine bleach with each gallon of water. Bleach is a caustic material and is dangerous to handle and apply, use caution.

Lime: If the spill occurred in a heavily populated area, within 100 feet of surface water, or odor may persist after cleanup, hydrated lime should be applied to the area in place of chlorine bleach *unless aluminum is present*. Follow the manufacturer's directions for use to raise the pH of the area to at least 12 for one hour. The application of a lime solution should be completed by an experienced individual. Excess lime must be removed before leaving the cleanup site. Hydrated lime is a caustic material and is dangerous to handle and apply, use caution.

6. 24 hours after the chlorine solution or hydrated lime has been applied and any residual removed, access to the area can be restored.