Ag Chemical Handling Facility
Small Scale Solutions for your Farm

Natural Resources Conservation Service

Do You Have Problems With:

- Crop and vegetation damage from spilled pesticides
- Polluted well
- Polluted livestock drinking water
- Dead spots where nothing will grow
- Unsightly chemical storage

Unsafe pesticide storage due to poor management

An Ag Chemical Handling Facility Can Help

Farm chemicals can affect you or your family's health and safety if not handled properly. A farm chemical mixing or handling area is a place where a field sprayer is filled or chemicals are mixed so that any spills do not soak into the ground.

Purposes and Benefits of Ag Chemical Handling Facility:

- Collect chemical spills so they can be stored for safe use or disposal.
- Keep farm chemicals from getting into your or your neighbor's well.
- Keep farm chemicals out of streams or ponds that may be used for livestock water or irrigation.
- Provide a clean, dry, hard work surface.
- May provide a safe place to store farm chemicals.

Use protective clothing when filling spray equipment

Costs:

The costs for an ag chemical handling facility will be different depending on the size and materials you use. Some of the costs you need to think about are:

- Concrete pad with collection drain
- Earth berm around the pad to collect spills
- Pipe and fittings that are resistant to chemicals
- Pump and storage tank
- Cutoff valve on filter pipe
- A storage building for safely storing chemicals and safety equipment

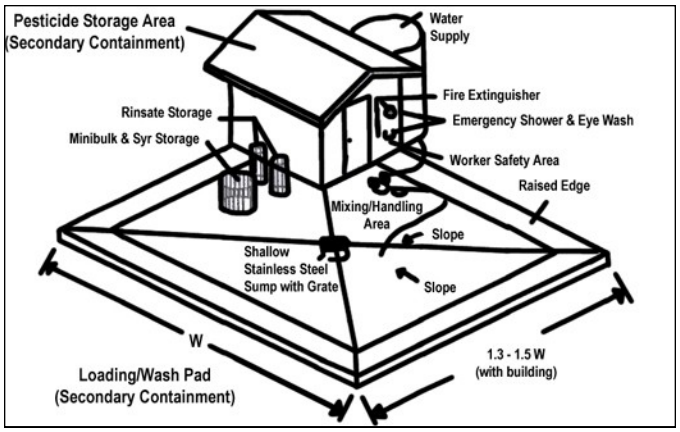
Ag Chemical Handling Facility

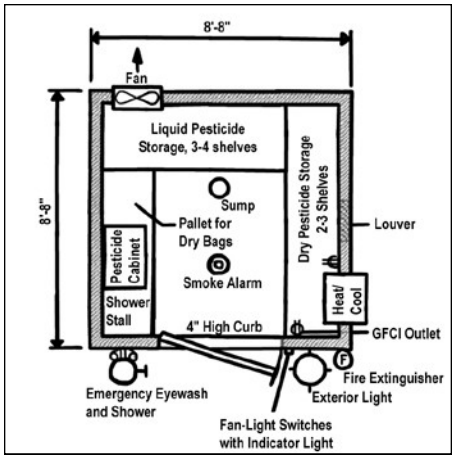
How to Install the Practice:

The basic requirement for a farm chemical mixing and handling area is a concrete pad large enough to park your sprayer on. It needs to have a curb or earth berm around it to hold anything that spills or leaks on the concrete. The concrete needs to be sloped to a drain connected to a pipe and pump so you can collect anything that spills or leaks.

If using a hand pump sprayer, the mixing and handling facility can be as simple as a heavy duty plastic bin big enough for the sprayer and chemicals. The bin can then be washed out and the wash water stored for future use or disposed.

- Select a site that is a safe distance away from your well, pond or other water sources
- Grade the site and build earth berms around the concrete pad to contain and collect spills
- Install pipes and drains
- Pour concrete
- Install pumps and wiring
- Install storage tank and building





Components of an Agricultural Handling Facility

Collect washwater from cleaning spray equipment

Other Things to Consider

- On some sites you may be able to use a synthetic liner instead of concrete.
- A roof can cover the mixing area to keep out rainwater.
- A small building may be needed for safely storing chemicals.

Ag Chemical Handling Facility

How to Operate & Maintain the Practice:

- Handle and mix all farm chemicals on the concrete slab
- Close the drain before mixing any chemicals
- Contain, wash down, and clean up all spills immediately
- Wash water can be stored and reused the next time you need to mix chemicals
- Spills can be pumped directly to your sprayer or stored for later use or disposal
- After use and clean up, open the drain so rain water does not collect
- Maintain pumps and pipes in good working order
- If you have a building for storing chemicals, check regularly to make sure chemicals are safe and dry
- Post chemical spill emergency and toxic safety telephone numbers

Protect workers and the environment from exposure to farm chemicals

Prefab containment facility

Calibrate equipment for correct application rates

Help is Available

NRCS Natural Resources Conservation Service

SMALL SCALE SOLUTIONS FOR YOUR FARM

Technical Help Is Available

Your local Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) office has experienced conservationists that can assist you with an ag chemical handling facility. They can also help you develop a Conservation Plan to solve other problems you have identified on your farm.

There is no charge for our assistance. Simply call your local office at the number listed below to set up an appointment and we will come to your farm.

You may also be eligible to receive financial assistance, through a state or federal program. Your NRCS office will explain any programs that are available so you can make the best decision for your operation. All NRCS programs and services are voluntary.

Helping People Help the Land

For More Information Contact the:

Natural Resources Conservation Service

60 Quaker Lane, Suite 46
Warwick, RI 02886
(401) 828-1300
Web Address: www.ri.nrcs.usda.gov
E-mail Address: NRCSInfo@ri.usda.gov

NRCS accepts applications on a continuous basis throughout the year.

The United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) prohibits discrimination in all its programs and activities on the basic of race, color, national origin, gender, religion, age, disability, political beliefs sexual orientation, and marital or familial status. (Not all prohibited bases apply to all programs). Persons with disabilities who require alternative means for communication of program information (Braille, large print, audiotape, etc.) should contact the USDA's TARGET Center at 202-720-2600 (voice and TDD). To file a complaint of discrimination, write USDA, Director, Office of Civil Rights, Room 326W, Whitten Building, 14th and Independence Ave., SW, Washington, D.C., 20250-9410, or call (202) 720-5964 (voice) or (202) 720-1127 (TDD). USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

January 2011