

## S428 BMPs for Storage of Liquids in Permanent Aboveground Tanks

**Description of Pollutant Sources:** Aboveground tanks containing liquids (excluding uncontaminated water) may be equipped with a valved drain, vent, pump, and bottom hose connection. Aboveground tanks may be heated with steam heat exchangers equipped with steam traps, if required. Leaks and spills can occur at connections and during liquid transfer. Oil and grease, organics, acids, alkalis, and heavy metals in tank water and condensate drainage can also cause stormwater contamination at storage tanks.

**Pollutant Control Approach:** Install secondary containment or a double-walled tank. Slope the containment area to a drain with a sump. Operators may need to discharge stormwater collected in the containment area to a Runoff Treatment BMP such as [BMP T11.10: API \(Baffle type\) Separator](#) or [BMP T11.11: Coalescing Plate \(CP\) Separator](#), or an equivalent BMP. Add safeguards against accidental releases including protective guards around tanks to protect against vehicle or forklift damage, and tagging valves to reduce human error. *Tank water and condensate discharges are process wastewater that may need an NPDES Permit.*

### Applicable Operational BMPs:

- Inspect the tank containment areas regularly for leaks/spills, cracks, corrosion, etc. to identify problem components such as fittings, pipe connections, and valves.
- Place adequately sized drip pans beneath all mounted taps and drip/spill locations during filling/unloading of tanks. Operators may need valved drain tubing in mounted drip pans.
- Vacuum sweep and clean the tank storage area regularly, if paved.
- Replace or repair tanks that are leaking, corroded, or otherwise deteriorating.
- Storage of flammable, ignitable, and reactive chemicals and materials must comply with the stricter of local zoning codes, local fire codes, the Uniform Fire Code (UFC), UFC standards, or the National Electric Code.

### Applicable Structural BMPs:

- Locate permanent tanks in impervious (Portland cement concrete or equivalent) secondary containment surrounded by dikes as illustrated in [Figure IV-5.5: Above-Ground Tank Storage](#), or use UL approved double-walled tanks. The dike must be of sufficient height to provide a containment volume of either 10 percent of the total enclosed tank volume or 110 percent of the volume contained in the largest tank, whichever is greater.
- Slope the secondary containment to drain to a normally closed valve, for the collection of small spills.
- Include a tank overfill protection system to minimize the risk of spillage during loading.

**Figure IV-5.5: Above-Ground Tank Storage**



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### **Applicable Treatment BMPs:**

- Depending on the kind of liquid being stored, the potential and type of stormwater contamination will vary and may require specialized treatment.
- For an uncovered tank containment area, equip the outlet from the spill-containment sump with a normally closed shutoff valve. Operators may open this valve manually or automatically, only to convey contaminated stormwater to approved treatment or disposal, or to convey uncontaminated stormwater to a storm sewer. Evidence of contamination can include the presence of visible sheen, color, or turbidity in the runoff, or existing or historical operational problems at the facility. Use simple pH tests with litmus or pH paper for areas subject to acid or alkaline contamination.
- At petroleum tank farms, convey stormwater contaminated with floating oil or debris in the contained area to a sanitary sewer with the sewer authority's approval or through [BMP T11.10: API \(Baffle type\) Separator](#) or [BMP T11.11: Coalescing Plate \(CP\) Separator](#), or other approved treatment prior to discharge to the storm drain or surface water.

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