

Delaware Nutrient Management
Program

DELAWARE CONSERVATION
PRACTICE STANDARD

FERTILIZER STORAGE

(Reported by No.)

DEFINITION

Process of safely containing fertilizer to prevent contamination and nutrient leakage.

PURPOSES

This practice may be applied for one or more of the following purposes:

1. Separate fertilizer from pesticides.
2. Reduce point and non-point source pollution.
3. Protect ground and surface water quality.
4. Contain spills.
5. Enhance worker safety.

**CONDITIONS WHERE PRACTICE
APPLIES**

This practice applies where:

1. Large amounts of fertilizer are being produced or applied.
2. There is a high risk of point and non-point source contamination from fertilizer.
3. The soil is highly susceptible to groundwater contamination (course textured soils that drain quickly).

CONSIDERATIONS

Fertilizers do not pose a threat to groundwater or surface water if they are stored properly in a secure location. Avoid storing fertilizer near wells or in structures that discharge into an area with high permeability. Liquid fertilizer should be stored so that it will be contained in case of a spill.

CRITERIA

Design Capacity. Fertilizer storage facilities should provide a containment area capable of confining 110-125% of the volume of the largest container.

Materials. Fertilizer storage facilities should be built with impermeable concrete floors. Curbs around the storage site to catch spills should also be made with concrete.

Within the facility, pallets should be provided to keep large drums or bags off the floor in order to keep them dry. Shelves for smaller containers should have a lip to keep the containers from sliding off easily. Steel shelves are recommended because they are easier to clean than wood if a spill occurs.

Protection. The building should be kept locked and be clearly labeled as a fertilizer storage area. The warning signs should be illuminated, as well as the building itself to identify it as a fertilizer storage facility. Preventing unauthorized use of fertilizers reduces the chance of accidental spills or theft.

REFERENCES

Considerations for construction and maintenance of fertilizer storage facilities can be found online at:

<http://extension.missouri.edu/publications/DisplayPub.aspx?P=WQ677>

<https://ag.umass.edu/greenhouse-floriculture/greenhouse-best-management-practices-bmp-manual/fertilizer-storage-handling>

http://www.nrcs.usda.gov/Internet/FSE_DOCUMENTS/nrcs141p2_018547.pdf