

Important Note: The following text is excerpted directly from the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation's publication, *Environmental Compliance, Pollution Prevention, and Self Assessment Guide for the Marina Industry*. New York State Department of Environmental Conservation Pollution Prevention Unit. March 2003. The only changes that have been made are the addition of links to pertinent resources or regulations and Editor's Notes, where appropriate.

Absorbents and Floor Dry

REGULATORY REQUIREMENTS

You must make a hazardous waste determination on all absorbent pads or floor dry material that is used to clean up spills. If your facility has a spill that could be harmful to public health or the environment, you must contact DEC immediately at 1-800-457-7362.

Alert

Before you discharge absorbents or floor dry into dumpsters, make sure you comply with all the necessary DEC regulations.

BEST MANAGEMENT PRACTICES

Good housekeeping practices are the best way to minimize spills. The fewer spills that occur, the less absorbents, floor dry or other absorbent material will be needed to clean up these spills. Here are some tips to help you prevent spills at your facility:

- Train your employees. Since employees are the first line defense against spills, make sure that each employee is taught the importance of

spill prevention.

- If you must use absorbents, make sure to purchase absorbent material that can be reused. Absorbent "socks," for example, can be used about 10 times.
- Make sure all of your tanks or drums that contain liquids have some kind of containment in case of a leak or spill.
- After wiping up a spill with absorbents or a mop, drain excess liquids into the waste container for that particular waste. For example, if you are cleaning up an oil spill, squeeze the excess oil in the container marked USED OIL.
- Use shop towels to wipe up small spills, then send your shop towels to be laundered.
- Consider an award program for employees that keep their work areas clean or for workers who come up with good pollution prevention ideas.