

Dealing with chemical waste in floods

Large areas of NSW have been severely impacted by floodwaters. As a result of floodwaters entering homes and businesses it is possible that household chemicals, bulk chemicals, and dangerous goods may have travelled large distances from their location. If these items have been damaged and their contents spilt or released, people and the environment may be at risk of harm.

Safety

Personal protective equipment, particularly gloves, must be used when handling and disposing of household chemicals.

Household Chemicals

Undamaged and uncontaminated household chemicals

- Store safely in a secure location on your property until they can be transported to a community recycling centre or local household chemical clean out event. Household Chemical CleanOut events are a free service, run jointly by the NSW Government and local councils, which provide a safe way to dispose of potentially hazardous household items such as paint, oils and cleaning products.
- To find out when the next Household Chemical CleanOut event is scheduled or where your closest Community Recycling Centre is in your area, go to [the EPA website](#) or contact your local council.



Household chemicals that have been spoiled or contaminated by flood waters

- Place onto the kerbside separated from other waste where it will be collected by a dedicated collection service. It will be taken to temporary emergency waste storage sites and stored in a bunded secure area.

Agricultural Quantities

Non-household quantities of chemicals such as pesticides and larger volumes of household chemicals that are no longer useful should be stored safely on your property until they are able to be collected

Debris on Shorelines, Beaches and in Waterways

Chemical drums and containers including gas bottles found in waterways or washed up on beaches:

- If safe to do so place above high water, call 131 555 to report to the EPA and collection will be arranged by contractors.
- If the material presents a risk to life or the environment, do not disturb it and call Triple Zero (000) for a HAZMAT response.

If you become aware of an imminent threat of harm to people or the environment from a release or spill of these items release you should contact Triple Zero (000) to report the emergency and provide as much detail as possible.