



The Spill Kit Selection Guide

Taking the Guesswork Out of Spill Preparedness



When a spill happens, your team needs to know which supplies to use, where to find them, and whether they're ready for action. The decisions you make beforehand—from choosing compatible absorbents and appropriate capacity to positioning kits for easy access—can make a critical difference in your response.

Effective preparedness also means being able to move supplies to the spill and restore readiness after use. This guide walks you through those decisions, helping you build a spill response program that protects people, limits the spread of spills, and supports your facility's safety and environmental compliance goals.

Build Readiness Around Four Key Decisions

Use this guide to turn those four decisions into a practical spill preparedness plan—helping protect people, limit the spread of spills, and support safety and environmental compliance.

1 What could spill?

Choose compatible absorbents and appropriate PPE for the liquids you handle.



2 How much could be released?

Consider the largest credible spill and the response capacity needed.



3 Where will supplies be needed?

Position kits near spill risks. Use wheeled containers to move supplies to the spill.



4 How will readiness be maintained?

Inspect routinely and replace used or missing supplies with matching refills.



1 MATCH THE KIT TO THE LIQUID

Start With the Spill—not the Container.

Every spill is different, and the liquid involved determines which absorbent will work best. Matching the kit to the spill helps your team respond effectively while controlling replenishment costs. When oil is mixed with water, oil-only absorbents capture the hydrocarbons and repel water, preserving more capacity for the oil. A general-purpose absorbent may take up both, using oil absorbents on water—so you may go through absorbents faster and need to replenish more often.



Oil & Fuel

Compatible oils, fuels, and hydrocarbons, especially where water is present. Oil-only absorbents absorb hydrocarbons while repelling water.



**Small Spill Kit
in a Resealable
Bag**



**20-Gallon Spill
Kit in a UN-Rated
Salvage Drum**



**55-Gallon Spill Kit
in a UN-Rated
Open-Head Drum**



**95-Gallon Spill
Kit with Loose
Absorbent in a
Wheeled Container**



Universal

Compatible oils, coolants, water-based fluids, and other common non-aggressive industrial liquids.



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Hazchem

Compatible acids, bases, and other aggressive chemicals. Confirm absorbent and PPE compatibility with the specific substance.



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Lab & Healthcare

Health & Biohazard

Blood and other potentially infectious bodily-fluid spills in healthcare, laboratory, and related settings. Follow facility infection-control procedures.



Cytotoxic

Spills involving cytotoxic drugs, such as certain chemotherapy medications. Use a purpose-designed kit and follow facility hazardous-drug handling procedures.



Know before you respond.

Confirm that absorbents, PPE, and other supplies are appropriate for the substance and exposure risk. Review the SDS where applicable and follow facility procedures. Unknown substances require hazard evaluation before response.

2 SIZE FOR THE RISK

Absorbency tells you how much a kit can absorb—not whether it has everything your team needs to respond.

A spill can spread toward drains, disrupt traffic areas, or reach soil and waterways before supplies are in place. The right kit needs both sufficient capacity and the contents to help responders act safely and limit the spread.



Start with the largest credible release, how quickly it could spread, and what your team would need from initial containment through recovery.

Consider:

- **Potential spill volume.** How much could realistically escape before the source is controlled? Could multiple containers or connected equipment contribute?
- **Where the spill could travel.** Identify pathways to drains, doorways, traffic areas, soil, or waterways—and the supplies needed to help protect them.
- **Time to respond.** Consider how quickly employees can reach the kit and whether supplies should be positioned at multiple locations.
- **The complete response.** Assess the need for compatible absorbents, appropriate PPE, socks or booms, drain protection, and waste collection supplies.
- **Additional protection.** Determine whether secondary containment or other response equipment is needed alongside the kit.

Choose for the spill you may face—not just the capacity on the label. Match kit capacity and contents to the full response scenario so your team has the supplies to respond with confidence.

Consider:

- Potential spill volume and whether multiple sources could contribute.
- Pathways to drains, doorways, traffic areas, soil, or waterways.
- Response time and the need for supplies at multiple locations.
- Whether secondary containment or additional response equipment is needed.

Choose capacity and kit contents for the full response scenario—not container size or price alone.

3 PUT RESPONSE WHERE THE RISK IS

The Right Kit Must Be Within Reach.

When a spill occurs, time spent searching for supplies is time the liquid has to spread. Even a well-stocked kit can fall short if it's across the facility, hidden behind equipment, or difficult to move.

Position kits where spills are most likely—not simply where storage space is available. Prioritize liquid storage, transfer points, machinery, maintenance areas, loading docks, and fueling operations. In healthcare and laboratories, assess patient-care areas, specimen handling, pharmacies, and locations where cytotoxic drugs are prepared or administered.

Consider where a responder would approach the spill and whether the release could block access to the kit.

Keep supplies close to the hazard, while allowing employees to retrieve them without entering the affected area.



At each location, ask:

- ✓ **Can we find it?**
Is the kit clearly visible, labeled, and easy to identify?
- ✓ **Can we reach it?**
Can employees access it quickly without moving equipment or navigating obstructions?
- ✓ **Can we deploy it?**
Are its size, weight, and mobility suited to the space and the people using it?
- ✓ **Is it ready?**
Are the appropriate contents present, usable, and replenished after use?

Walk the response route before you need it. Check placement from the responder's perspective: how quickly can someone identify, reach, and deploy the kit? For larger facilities or separated work areas, multiple kits may put the right supplies closer to the risk. At each location, ask:

- ✓ **Can we find it?**
Clearly visible and easy to identify.
- ✓ **Can we reach it?**
Accessible without obstructions.
- ✓ **Can we deploy it?**
Appropriate size, weight, and mobility.
- ✓ **Is it ready?**
Contents available and replenished after use.

4 WHY JUSTRITE?

Make Spill Readiness Simple.

Justrite Spill Kits help teams quickly identify the right kit, respond with confidence, and simplify inspection and replenishment—keeping facilities prepared and supporting safety and environmental compliance.



IDENTIFY FAST

Color-coded kits and clear application guidance help teams select the appropriate kit.



RESPOND WITH CONFIDENCE

Organized, accessible supplies make essential response materials easier to find and deploy. Wheeled options bring supplies to the spill.



INSPECT EASILY

Tamper-evident, uniquely numbered tags indicate whether a kit has been accessed, helping teams identify when further inspection is needed.



REPLENISH WITH EASE

Contents checklists and refill options help teams replace used materials and return kits to ready status.



CHOOSE ABSORBENTS FOR YOUR APPLICATION

Select kits include naturally derived loose absorbents, including vermiculite or perlite.



CONNECT TO MORE JUSTRITE SOLUTIONS

A broader portfolio of secondary containment and workplace safety solutions helps facilities address spill risks before, during, and after a release.

5

KEEP YOUR KIT RESPONSE-READY

Buying the right spill kit is only the beginning.

When a spill happens, there's no time to search for supplies or discover your kit is incomplete. Keeping it visible, accessible, and fully stocked helps your team act quickly and confidently.

Routine inspections turn a one-time purchase into ongoing preparedness—helping prevent small gaps from becoming costly delays.

Use this quick checklist to keep your kit response-ready:

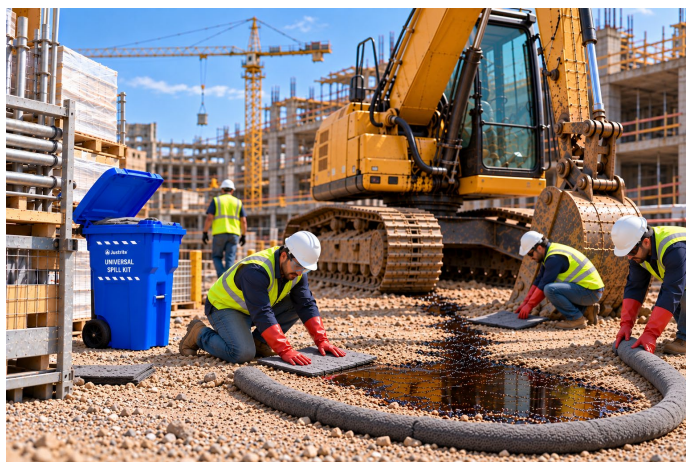
- ☐ Kit is in its designated location, visible, and accessible.
- ☐ Kit type, labels, and instructions are clear.
- ☐ Required contents are present, usable, and appropriate for the application.
- ☐ Audit tag has been checked; accessed kits receive further inspection.
- ☐ Used or missing supplies have been replenished.
- ☐ An inspection owner and schedule are established.
- ☐ Employees understand response procedures and when to escalate.



Don't wait for a spill to find out what's missing. Assign an inspection owner, replenish supplies after every use, and make sure employees know where the kit is and how to respond. These everyday actions help reduce delays, strengthen preparedness, and keep your team ready when it happens.

SPILL RISKS VARY ACROSS DIFFERENT FACILITIES

Construction crews, warehouse teams, laboratory staff, and fleet technicians handle different liquids under different conditions. A strong preparedness plan follows those workflows: match spill kit types to the materials handled and place kits near likely spill points, so employees can reach suitable supplies quickly without searching or guessing. The examples below show how this approach can work across common facility settings.



Construction

Fueling, equipment maintenance, and changing jobsite conditions create spill risks across a construction site. Place oil and fuel spill kits near equipment and fueling areas so crews can respond without leaving the work zone to find supplies.



Warehouse

Leaks near loading docks, liquid storage, and handling areas can interrupt work and create hazards in busy aisles. Keep spill kits close to these high-activity areas so employees can respond quickly and help contain the spill.



Laboratory

A response that works for one liquid may not be appropriate for another. Identify the chemicals used in each lab area and keep the corresponding HazChem spill kit accessible to the people who work there.



Fleet

Oil, fuel, coolant, and other vehicle fluids can spill in service bays or on the road. Keep the appropriate spill kits in maintenance areas and service vehicles so crews can respond where the work happens.



BE READY WHEN IT HAPPENS.

- The right spill kit does more than sit on standby. Matched to your hazards, positioned within reach, and kept fully stocked, it helps your team respond with confidence when it matters.
- Preparedness starts before the spill—with thoughtful selection, clear response procedures, routine inspections, and employees who know how to respond. Together, these practices help reduce delays, support safety and environmental compliance efforts, and protect people, property, and the environment.
- Select Justrite Spill Kits also feature naturally derived absorbents, including vermiculite and perlite, offering additional choices for your application.
- Use this guide to evaluate your current kits, identify gaps, and strengthen preparedness across your facility. Build peace of mind through preparation—knowing your supplies are ready and your team has a plan.

Find The Right Spill Kit

Tell Us What You're Preparing For.

Share your liquid type, potential spill volume, and work environment. Justrite can help identify an appropriate spill-response solution.

Get Help Selecting a Spill Kit | [Explore Justrite Spill Kits](#)

READY WHEN IT HAPPENS.



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