



Small Scale Solutions for your Farm

Ag Chemical Handling Facility



Do You Have Problems with:

- Crop and vegetation damage from spilled pesticides
- Polluted well(s)
- Polluted livestock drinking water
- Dead spots where nothing will grow
- Unsightly chemical storage

Ag Chemical Handling Facility

Farm chemicals can affect you and your family’s health and safety if not handled properly. A farm chemical mixing or handling area is a place where chemicals are mixed or a field sprayer is filled so that any spills do not soak into the ground.

Purposes and Benefits of an Ag Chemical Handling Facility

- Collect chemical spills so they can be stored for safe use or disposal
- Keep farm chemicals from getting into your and your neighbor’s wells
- Keep farm chemicals out of streams or ponds that may be used for livestock water or irrigation
- Provide a clean, dry, hard work surface
- May provide a safe place to store farm chemicals



Proper chemical storage is critical to the safety in your operation.



Containment of spillage part of the Ag.Chemical Facilities.

Guidance documents lack the force and effect of law, unless expressly authorized by statute or incorporated into a contract. USDA may not cite, use, or rely on any guidance that is not available through their guidance portal, except to establish historical facts.





How to Install the Practice

The basic requirement for a farm chemical mixing and handling area is a concrete pad large enough to place your sprayer on. It needs to have a curb or earth berm around it to hold anything that spills or leaks on the concrete. The concrete is sloped to a drain that is connected to a pipe and pump so you can collect anything that spills or leaks.

If using a hand pump sprayer, the mixing and handling facility can be as simple as a heavy-duty plastic bin big enough for the sprayer and chemicals. The bin can then be washed out and the wash water stored for future use or disposal.

- Select a site that is a safe distance from your well, pond, or other water sources
- Grade the site and build earth berms around the concrete pad to contain and collect spills
- Install pipes and drains
- Pour concrete
- Install pumps and wiring
- Install storage tank and building

Other Things to Consider:

On some sites you may be able to use a synthetic liner instead of concrete. A roof can cover the mixing area to keep out rainwater. A small building may be needed for safely storing chemicals.



Keep livestock and children out of well. It's dangerous!



Components of an Agricultural Handling Facility.



Collect wash water from cleaning spray equipment.





How to Operate and Maintain the Practice:

- Handle and mix all farm chemicals on the concrete slab
- Close the drain before mixing any chemicals
- Contain, wash down, and clean up all spills immediately
- Wash water can be stored and reused the next time you need to mix chemicals
- Spills can be pumped directly to your sprayer or stored for later use or disposal
- After use and clean up, open the drain so rainwater does not collect
- Maintain pumps and pipes in good working order
- If you have a building for storing chemicals, regularly check to make sure chemicals are safe and dry
- Post chemical spill emergency and toxic safety telephone numbers where handy

Associated Costs:

Total costs for an ag chemical handling facility will be different depending on the size and materials used. Some of the costs to think about include:

- Concrete pad with collection drain
- Earth berm around the pad to contain spill(s)
- Pipe and fittings that are resistant to chemicals
- Pump and storage tank
- Cutoff valve on filter pipe
- A storage building for safely storing chemicals and safety equipment



Calibrate equipment for correct application rates.



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Technical and Financial Help Is Available

Whether you measure your farm in terms of feet or acres, your local Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) office has experienced conservationists that can help you develop a Conservation Plan to conserve, maintain, and restore the natural resources on your land and improve the long-term health of your operation.

There is no charge for our assistance. Simply contact your local office to set up an appointment. You may also be eligible to receive financial assistance. Your NRCS office will explain any programs that are available so you can make the best decision for your operation. All NRCS programs and services are voluntary.

For More Information

Visit the [Natural Resources Conservation Service](#) or visit farmers.gov/service-locator to find your local NRCS office. You can also check with your local USDA Service Center, then make an appointment to determine next steps for your conservation goals.

In accordance with Federal civil rights law and U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) civil rights regulations and policies, the USDA, its Agencies, offices, and employees, and institutions participating in or administering USDA programs are prohibited from discriminating based on race, color, national origin, religion, sex, gender identity (including gender expression), sexual orientation, disability, age, marital status, family/parental status, income derived from a public assistance program, political beliefs, or reprisal or retaliation for prior civil rights activity, in any program or activity conducted or funded by USDA (not all bases apply to all programs). Remedies and complaint filing deadlines vary by program or incident.

Persons with disabilities who require alternative means of communication for program information (e.g., Braille, large print, audiotape, American Sign Language, etc.) should contact the responsible Agency or USDA's TARGET Center at (202) 720-2600 (voice and TTY) or contact USDA through the Federal Relay Service at (800) 877-8339. Additionally, program information may be made available in languages other than English.

To file a program discrimination complaint, complete the USDA Program Discrimination Complaint Form, AD-3027, found online at [How to File a Program Discrimination Complaint](#) and at any USDA office or write a letter addressed to USDA and provide in the letter all of the information requested in the form. To request a copy of the complaint form, call (866) 632-9992. Submit your completed form or letter to USDA by: (1) mail: U.S. Department of Agriculture, Office of the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights, 1400 Independence Avenue, SW, Washington, D.C. 20250-9410; (2) fax: (202) 690-7442; or (3) email: program.intake@usda.gov.



NRCS conservationist assisting small scale farmer with developing a customized conservation plan.

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