

Bunding and blind tanks

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Many spilled or leaked materials can harm our sewerage system due to their chemical properties and/or the quantity involved. This risk is normally minimised or eliminated by the storage and handling of such materials within a banded compound or blind tank. This physical barrier control method is particularly important where potentially hazardous materials are close to floor drains or other sewer access points.

Generators of small amounts of trade waste or spent process chemicals may find it more practical to have containment in a blind tank before the waste is removed for off-site disposal, rather than on-site pre-treatment and discharge to sewer.

Definitions

For the purpose of this guideline:

- **Compound** refers to an area for the storage of chemicals, wastes, products, processes or other materials, which are potentially hazardous to the sewerage system.
- **Bund** refers to a wall, moat or other physical barrier, which prevents the escape of liquids from a compound.
- **Blind tank** refers to a fixed container designed to isolate its contents from our sewerage system. It does not include batch holding tanks, catch pits, pump sumps or other containers used for holding used water on site before pre-treatment and disposal to the sewer.

Design and installation for banded compounds

The general design requirements, as set out in the South Australian Environment Protection Authority's [Bunding and Spill Management Guideline, EPA 080/12](#) apply. In particular, we require that banded compounds hold a minimum of 120% of the capacity of the largest tank, or 25% of the combined volume of stored containers, such as drums or bottles. Using the bund as temporary extra storage capacity might reduce the available holding capacity to below the acceptable volume.

Where used water pre-treatment equipment is operated within a banded compound, discharge to sewer is to a tundish located outside of the bund. Alternatively, the finished level of tundishes located within the bund is at least 50mm higher than the spill level of the bund.

Stormwater is specifically prohibited from discharge to sewer under the [Water Industry Act 2012](#) to prevent flooding of sewers. We expect operators to employ effective roofs over banded compounds to exclude stormwater or use the alternative, EPA approved disposal methods. We will only approve the disposal of contaminated stormwater to sewer in **exceptional** circumstances and in accordance with our [Contaminated Stormwater Guideline](#).

Temporary bunding

Where drums or other containers of liquids are temporarily placed in an area that drains to sewer, trays, portable bunds, pallet bunds, spill kits or other suitable spill/leak control measures must be used.

Design and installation for blind tanks

- All blind tanks must be made secure and be of a material unaffected by its contents.
- Above ground blind tanks must have a 'double wall' or be placed in a suitable bunded compound.
- The operator must use suitable systems and procedures to ensure blind tanks do not flood or overflow in service.
- Blind tanks with drain valves/outlets are contained within a bunded compound.
- Contents of blind tanks must be removed by a licensed waste contractor for disposal at a licensed waste receiving site.
- The operator keeps records that prove the correct disposal of each blind tank's contents.

More information

Mains Water Protection (AS/NZS 3500.1:2015)

[Backflow Prevention Requirements - Office of the Technical Regulator](#)