

Prevent Contamination at Your Facility. *Clean is Best!*

Remember to . . .

- ✓ **Train your permanent, seasonal, and temporary employees to keep their facility clean:** Remind them that it doesn't take much spilled fertilizer and pesticide, over time to cause environmental problems. Remember that small, unabated spills and careless handling of agricultural chemicals can cause significant environmental contamination.
- ✓ **Keep the load pad clean:** Most bulk pesticide loadpads are roofed however soil sampling results has shown spilled pesticides from inside the building are tracked off the pad into the environment.
- ✓ **Watch those sweepings:** Sweepings may contain agricultural chemicals and need to be disposed of properly. Sweepings should be stored in containers with lids and (later) applied like regular product. Sweepings should go out with the next load of impregnated fertilizer or landspread on a labeled site – not on your facility grounds!
- ✓ **Make life easy:** Brooms, shovels, absorbents, covered and marked pails for storage of sweepings should be located near load in/out and agricultural chemical handling areas. Facilities must have a routine established for using collected sweepings. Signs spelling out these procedures should be posted, and employees should be continually reminded to keep their facility clean.
- ✓ **Control agricultural chemical dust:** Dust can escape during loading operations and contaminate unprotected and vulnerable areas around your business. Control methods include: installation of a telescoping downspout, enclosing all impregnation operations with a loading area, and closing doors during loading. Historically, grain elevators take the dust issue very seriously and shroud or completely cover augers/conveyer belts from the end of the chute to the truck. Many have vacuum systems to collect the extra dust. If you are building a new facility consider complete enclosure of all conveyor systems so agricultural chemical dust will be minimized and contained.
- ✓ **Seal cracks:** Fertilizer and pesticide liquid and dry dusts settle and collect in load pad cracks and joints. Seal joints regularly and pay special attention to the joints where the tower footings meet the pad.
- ✓ **Make building improvements:** Roofed pesticide and fertilizer load areas and containment dike(s) prevent fertilizer and pesticide contamination problems being compounded by precipitation and wind. With a roofed, enclosed system the weather is not an issue when loading trucks or otherwise handling product. If roofing is not an option install gutters and downspouts to divert precipitation from agricultural chemical handling areas.
- ✓ **Manage precipitation and rinsate which collects inside dikes or sumps:** Disposal of contaminated precipitation over the dike wall or dumping rinsate is illegal and can be costly to clean up. Collect and manage precipitation/rinsate by pumping water into a holding tank. If the precipitation/rinsate is contaminated with fertilizer use the collected water for your next fertilizer application. If pesticides are involved, pump precipitation/rinsate to dedicated holding tanks for corn, soybean, sugar beet or other specific crops and use the precipitation according to labeled rates in the next tank mix.
- ✓ **Use drip pans and holsters for hoses:** Hoses and valves from bulk tanks may drip. Hoses should be stored in an upright position or with hose ends placed in a drip pan/holster. Use drip pans in your agricultural chemical transfer areas to contain leaks from becoming problems. Drip pans can be situated under the plumbing of bulk tanks to catch any small leaks until leaks can be promptly repaired.
- ✓ **Respond immediately to all spills:** Don't let spilled fertilizer or pesticide from load-in/out areas remain on the load pad and then wash off during a rain event. Don't allow spilled material to get run over by equipment and tracked elsewhere. Agricultural chemicals won't have a chance to get into the environment if cleaned up promptly. Train employees and haulers to get in the routine of cleaning up spills immediately. Consider posting signs to guide employees on agricultural clean up procedures and stress the importance of keeping their facility spill free.
- ✓ **Report spills to MN Duty Officer:** Ensure your employees are aware of the requirements to report spills to the MN DUTY OFFICER at 1-800-422-0798.