



Avoid Fertilizer Material Spills During All Phases of Transport, Storage, and Application

- When transporting fertilizer, do not overfill trailers or tanks. Cover or cap loads properly and display appropriate placards on vehicles.
- When transferring fertilizer into on-farm storage or into a fertilizer applicator, take care not to allow materials to accumulate on the soil. Good housekeeping practices shall be implemented to prevent contamination of groundwater and/or surface water.
- Clean up fertilizer spills promptly.
- Maintain all fertilizer storage facilities to meet government and industry standards and protect them from the weather.
- Shut off fertilizer applicators during turns and use check valves when possible.
- Maintain proper calibration of fertilizer application equipment.
- Whenever injecting fertilizer into irrigation water, ensure backflow does not occur.
- Distribute rinse water from fertilizer application equipment evenly throughout the field. Fertilizer tanks and equipment should be cleaned by rinsing in the field or at a properly designed wash facility. Rinse water and/or sludge should be evenly distributed throughout the field using good agronomic practices.
- When equipment is parked, use care to prevent material from leaking onto storage area. If equipment is known to be in disrepair, completely remove fertilizer material before parking equipment.

For more information, contact:

- California Department of Food and Agriculture's Fertilizer Research and Education Program
(916) 653-5340
- California Fertilizer Association
(916) 441-1584
- University of California Cooperative Extension
Monterey County: (831) 759-7350 Santa Clara County: (408) 299-2635
- County Agricultural Commissioner
Monterey County: (831) 759-7325 Santa Clara County: (408) 299-2171

These best management practices were excerpted and modified from the University of California Division of Agriculture and Natural Resources "Production Guide: Nitrogen and Water Management for Coastal Cool-Season Vegetables." This Fact Sheet is based on Management Measure 2 of the Production Guide. This publication can be ordered from ANR Communication Services at 800-994-8849 or on the Internet at <http://commserv.ucdavis.edu/ucce/>.

**Monterey County
Water Resources
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