

Polyethylene Spill Response Checklist

(Plastic Resin, Pellets, Nurdles)

Spring 2020

STEP 1

INITIAL RESPONSE and NOTIFICATION

- 9-1-1, Police, Fire, EMS, etc...
- Environmental and regulatory authorities
- NOVA Chemicals' Transportation Emergency Line: 1-800-561-6682

STEP 2

SITE MANAGEMENT and CONTROL — Secure the scene and establish hazard control zones

- Initial Isolation Zone:** Barricade the spill area and keep people from stepping in and driving on spilled pellets; do not push pellets deeper into the soil or spread contamination
- Traffic Management Plan:** Develop and implement a plan in consultation with regulatory agencies, responders and/or approved contractors

STEP 3

ASSESSMENT — Control hazards and determine the type and extent of contamination

- Hazard Recognition:** Analyze and control hazards (e.g. Site Safety Plan, Traffic Control)
- Seek consultation from Environmental specialists or consultants — dial 1-800-561-6682
- Be on lookout for other contaminants (e.g. dangerous goods, vehicle fuel, engine oils, etc...)
- Clean-up may be a lower priority than traffic movement (rail line, roadway)

STEP 4

COMMUNICATION — Notify and keep regular communication with stakeholders

- Landowner
- Regulatory authorities (e.g. Transport, Environment, Coast Guard, responders, etc...)
- Downstream water intake organizations (e.g. drinking water, industry, etc...)
- One-Call — Call or click before you dig (www.clickbeforeyoudig.com)

STEP 5

CONTAINMENT and CONFINEMENT — Stop or mitigate the spill, if safe to do so

- Plug holes in packaging
- Close open valves, doors, opening, etc....
- Move/roll containers so that openings are oriented upwards
- Cover or protect storm water drains to prevent resin from entering them

STEP 6

GROUND CLEAN-UP — Hierarchy of clean-up methods

- 1. Vacuum equipment (e.g. vac-truck, portable vacuum, grain auger, approved contractor); identify and control hazards, including static electricity
- 2. Sweep with brooms into appropriate container (do not sweep pellets into water course)
- 3. Wash into appropriate containment system
- 4. Blow away from sensitive areas and into containment system (last resort)

WATER CLEAN-UP

- Booms to catch floating surface pellets downstream (pellets float and travel with currents)
- Check for pellet accumulation downstream along water banks and coastlines
- Determine appropriate coastline ground clean-up strategies

STEP 7

REMEDIATION — Remove contaminated soil

- [Click before you dig.com](http://www.clickbeforeyoudig.com) — Ensure survey has been completed and underground lines identified
- Shoveling into containers
- Scraping with heavy equipment (front-end loader, excavator, etc...)
- Approved transportation company to transport truck loads (e.g. dump truck) or containers of contaminated soil to be disposed at approved facility

STEP 8

RESTORATION — Return the environment to its pre-incident state

- Consult with landowner and local environmental authorities
- Analyze new soil prior to delivery and verify/consult with landowner
- Place clean soil where contaminated soil was removed
- Install approved native plant habitat where plants were removed, contaminated or damaged

