

# Understanding Secondary Containment

Secondary containment is a backup safety measure. It's there to stop hazardous liquids ending up where they shouldn't: down the drain and into a waterway.

Secondary containment is there to protect people, property, and the environment if something goes wrong with the primary container.

## What is secondary containment?

The primary container – such as a drum, package, or bulk tank – is designed to store hazardous liquids safely during day-to-day use. Most of the time it does its job well, but if it ever cracks, breaks, or starts leaking, that's when you need a secondary containment system.

This second containment is there to catch and hold any spilled substances, so they don't cause damage or put anyone, or the environment, at risk.

There are many different ways to provide secondary containment depending on what is being stored and how. Some common options include spill trays, liners, spill containment pallets, and double-skinned tanks.

These systems aren't just for large tanks - they're required for all sorts of storage, including drums, packaged products, and IBCs. They apply to liquids as well as materials that could melt or turn into liquid during a fire.




## What the regulations say

The **Health and Safety at Work (Hazardous Substances) Regulations 2017** spell out when secondary containment is required. The rules set specific threshold quantities. Once you go over those limits, you must have a suitable secondary containment system in place.

The exact thresholds depend on the hazard classification of the substance and the size of the container it's stored in. We have put together a handy 5-Step Guide to the exact level of secondary containment required, and which Hazero products enable you to achieve that compliance.





























# Understanding Secondary Containment

Step 1 - What is the size of my largest container?	Step 2 - What are the classes of the products stored?	Step 3 - What is the total amount of product stored in the area?	Step 4 - How much bunding am I required to have?	Step 5 - What products will assist me in meeting that requirement?
<p><i>Container size</i></p> <p>up to 60L</p> 	<p><i>Hazard type</i></p> <p>Class 3 and 5</p>	<p><i>Total storage</i></p> <p>less than 5,000L</p> <p>more than 5,000L</p>	<p><i>Bunding level required</i></p> <p>At least half the pooling potential</p> <p>The greater of; 1. 2,500L 2. 1/4 of that total pooling potential</p>	<p><i>Suggested products</i></p> <p>Work Floors (01-1022   01-1023)</p> <p>Spill Pallets (01-1020   01-1021   01-1043)</p>
	<p>Class 6, 8 and 9*</p>	<p>less than 20,000L</p> <p>more than 20,000L</p>	<p>At least 25% of the pooling potential</p> <p>The greater of; 1. 5,000L 2. 5% of that total pooling potential</p>	<p>Work Floors (01-1022   01-1023)</p> <p>Floor Bunding or Spill Pallets (01-1020   01-1021)</p>
<p>60 to 450L</p> 	<p>Class 3 and 5</p>	<p>less than 5,000L</p> <p>more than 5,000L</p>	<p>At least that pooling potential</p> <p>The greater of; 1. 5,000L 2. half that total pooling potential</p>	<p>Spill Pallets (01-1020   01-1021)</p> <p>Spill Pallets (01-1020   01-1021)</p>
	<p>Class 6, 8 and 9*</p>	<p>less than 20,000L</p> <p>more than 20,000L</p>	<p>25% of the total pooling potential or 110% of the largest container, whichever is greater</p> <p>The greater of; 1. 5,000L 2. 5% of that total pooling potential</p>	<p>Spill Pallets (01-1020   01-1021   1-1043)</p> <p>Floor Bunding or Spill Pallets (01-1020   01-1021)</p>
<p>Over 450L</p> 	<p>Class 3 and 5</p>	<p>less than 5,000L</p> <p>more than 5,000L</p>	<p>At least that pooling potential</p> <p>The greater of; 1. 5,000L 2. half that total pooling potential</p>	<p>Spill Pallets (01-1025   01-1026   01-1095)</p> <p>Contact your Hazero supplier, or phone 0800 688 844.</p>
	<p>Class 6, 8 and 9*</p>	<p>less than 20,000L</p> <p>more than 20,000L</p>	<p>25% of the total pooling potential or 110% of the largest container, whichever is greater</p> <p>The greater of; 1. 5,000L 2. 5% of that total pooling potential</p>	<p>Spill Pallets (01-1025   01-1026   01-1095)</p> <p>Contact your Hazero supplier, or phone 0800 688 844.</p>

\* Certain products must be segregated where appropriate to ensure that the leakage of one substance does not adversely affect the container of another substance. Information is based on HSWR Regulations 2017, the table above is provided as a guide only. The final onus is on the client to ensure that all aspects of the Regulations are complied with when meeting secondary containment requirements.

# Secondary Containment Thresholds

Hazard Classification	GHS Symbols	HSNO Symbols	Amounts Where the Need For Secondary Containment Is Triggered
Class 5.1.1A			50L
Class 5.1.1B			500L
Class 5.2A, 5.2B			10L
Class 5.2C, 5.2D			25L
Class 5.2E, 5.2F			100L
Class 6.1A, 6.1B, 6.1C			100L
Class 6.1D, 6.5A, 6.5B, 6.7A			1,000L

Hazard Classification	GHS Symbols	HSNO Symbols	Amounts Where the Need For Secondary Containment Is Triggered
Class 8.2A			100L
Class 8.2B			1,000L
Class 8.2C, 8.3A			10,000L
Class 9.1A			100L
Class 9.1B, 9.1C			1,000L
Class 9.1D			10,000L

The point at which your worksite requires secondary containment depends on what class of liquids you have on site, and in what quantities.

For really hazardous liquids, it is required from very low levels. For others, you are allowed to have a larger amount before secondary containment is required, while for many non-hazardous substances, little to none may be needed at all.

While not exhaustive, the table to the right details some of the more common classes, and at what point secondary containment is required.

For further information including classes beyond those listed about, contact Worksafe.