

TOOLBOX TALK

No 2

WATER POLLUTION PREVENTION (FUEL & OIL)

WHAT?

A large number of oil related water pollution incidents occur each year.

Discharging fuel, oil or water containing fuel or oil into drains or watercourses is illegal.

Many are from unbunded tanks and can easily be avoided by following simple guidelines.

WHY?

- ❑ **Avoid prosecution:** Your employer or you as an individual can be prosecuted for causing water pollution.
- ❑ **Cost:** The costs of clean up far exceed those to put control measures in place
- ❑ **Damage to wildlife:** Long-term damage to watercourses including fish kills. Oil spreads rapidly - one gallon of oil can completely cover a lake the size of two football pitches

DOs

General

- ✓ Store oils away from drains or watercourses.
- ✓ Return oil and fuels to storage areas after use.
- ✓ Locate oil stores away from areas of high vehicular movement to prevent accidental damage.
- ✓ Bund individual 205 litre drums to 25%
- ✓ Supervise all fuel deliveries
- ✓ Lock oil stores when not in use.
- ✓ Use drip trays under all static plant and during refuelling from mobile plant.

Bulk Storage

- ✓ Bund tanks and bowsers to 110%
- ✓ Ensure bunds are free from cracks and leaks.
- ✓ Regularly empty bunds and drip trays of rainwater.
- ✓ Keep all hoses & pipe work within bunded area after use.
- ✓ Keep a spill kit near to refuelling areas.
- ✓ DO report any irregularities or incidents.

DON'Ts

- ✗ DON'T refuel or store oil within 10m of watercourses or surface water drains
- ✗ DON'T leave bunds and drip trays to overflow
- ✗ DON'T leave refuelling hoses outside of bunds after use
- ✗ DON'T use high pressure delivery systems when filling small containers
- ✗ DON'T hose down spills.
- ✗ DON'T ignore spillages.



See also: No 1 - Spill Control Tool Box Talk