



## ENVIRONMENTAL ALERT ENGLAND & WALES

# New EA guidance on oil clean-up products and their application in England & Wales

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The Environment Agency has published new guidance which describes the oil clean-up product types available in England and Wales and identifies which ones are suitable for use in:

**Spillages to:**

- inland waters
- coastal waters
- yard surfaces, roadways and forecourts
- unmade ground/groundwater
- rocky shores.

**Routine oil clean-up from:**

- boat bilges
- bund walls and oil separators
- vehicles and machinery
- harbour walls.

When applying this guidance, the EA recommends that operators should use their preferred option in the first instance.

For oil spills to surface water and groundwater the EA prefer the use of mechanical recovery and/or sorbents to remove oil from surface waters. These methods for removing oil don't add to the water pollution and are designed to remove the oil from the water.

The new guidance summarises the characteristics of the various types of oil clean up products, namely:

- |  |                                 |
|--|---------------------------------|
| • <i>Mechanical oil removal techniques</i> | • <i>Sorbents</i>               |
| • <i>Bioremediation Agents</i>             | • <i>Dispersants</i>            |
| • <i>Surface Cleaners</i>                  | • <i>Miscellaneous products</i> |

The guidance also gives information on examples of where clean up products should be used in various situations and environs. Tables 1 and 2 overleaf show a summary of this information. It is recommended that the full EA guidance is consulted should clean up operations be required, available on KNet at:

[http://environet.biwater.co.uk/info/ppg/documents/Oil\\_Clean-Up\\_product\\_guidance.pdf](http://environet.biwater.co.uk/info/ppg/documents/Oil_Clean-Up_product_guidance.pdf)

Location of spill	Activity/clean up	Options	Appropriate Yes, No, Approval from Regulator needed
Marine	Oil spill on water on the sea, tidal estuaries and tidal waters	Mechanical recovery	Approval from Regulator needed
		Dispersants	Approval from Regulator needed
		Sorbents	Approval from Regulator needed
		Bioremediation	Approval from Regulator needed
		Surface cleaners	Approval from Regulator needed
Inland	Oil spill to water on a river, pond, canal or other inland water	Mechanical recovery	Yes
		Dispersants	No
		Sorbents	Yes
		Bioremediation	Approval from Regulator needed
		Surface cleaners	No
Inland	Oil spill to impermeable yard area, roadway, forecourt or other impermeable surface	Mechanical recovery	Yes
		Dispersants	No
		Sorbents	Yes
		Bioremediation	Approval from Regulator needed
		Surface cleaners	Yes
Inland	Oil spill to ground	Mechanical recovery	Yes
		Dispersants	No
		Sorbents	Yes
		Bioremediation	Approval from Regulator needed
		Surface cleaners	No
Beaches & rocky shores	Oil spilled or washed up onto sand and rocks	Mechanical recovery	Approval from Regulator needed
		Dispersants	Approval from Regulator needed
		Sorbents	Approval from Regulator needed
		Bioremediation	Approval from Regulator needed
		Surface cleaners	Approval from Regulator needed

**Table 1 – summary of EA recommended clean up material for emergency situations\***

Location of spill	Activity/clean up	Options	Appropriate Yes, No, Approval from Regulator needed
Inland and coastal	Oil spilt on board bilges	Mechanical recovery	Yes
		Dispersants	No
		Sorbents	Yes
		Bioremediation	Approval from Regulator needed
		Surface cleaners	Approval from Regulator needed
Inland	Oil collected in bund walls or separators	Mechanical recovery	Yes
		Dispersants	No
		Sorbents	Yes
		Bioremediation	Approval from Regulator needed
		Surface cleaners	Approval from Regulator needed
Inland	Removal of oils from vehicles/machinery	Washing with detergent	Yes
		Dispersants	No
		Sorbents	No
		Bioremediation	Yes
		Surface cleaners	Yes
Coastal	Removal of oil deposits from harbour walls	Mechanical recovery	Yes
		Dispersants	Approval from Regulator needed
		Sorbents	Approval from Regulator needed
		Bioremediation	Approval from Regulator needed
		Surface cleaners	Approval from Regulator needed

**Table 2 - summary of EA recommended clean up material for routine clean up activities\***

\* for all activities, wastes must be managed in accordance with the Waste Duty of Care and any discharges must be consented either by the EA or sewage undertaker.