

CLEANING UP AN OIL OR FUEL SPILL



The most effective way of cleaning up an oil or fuel spill is to use sorbent material, which soaks up the oil and not the water.

Pads of this material are inexpensive and available at boat chandlers and marine suppliers. A piece the size of this pamphlet will soak up over a cupful of oil and can be wrung out and re-used.

The waste oil should be disposed of by a specialist waste management company or at the waste oil reception facility at your marina.

You should always have a pack handy in your boat, and use a pad every time you refuel. Cut a slot in the centre of a pad and place the fuel nozzle through it to help contain overflows while refuelling.

REDUCING ENGINE EMISSIONS

If you own an older two-stroke engine, consider upgrading to a modern low emission two or four stroke alternative.

- ▶ Conventional two-strokes release oil and uncombusted fuel during normal operation. This often appears as a rainbow sheen on calm water.
- ▶ The newer generation of engines require fewer lubricants and are much more efficient. By switching to less harmful engine alternatives, you are helping reduce the release of pollutants.
- ▶ Check efficiency levels with your dealer before purchasing a new engine.
- ▶ If you have an older two-stroke engine:
 - ▶ limit operation at full throttle, and
 - ▶ eliminate unnecessary idling.These are the most polluting stages of engine use. Also make sure you keep the engine properly maintained and tuned.

Look after the environment you enjoy – invest in its protection.

TO FIND OUT MORE

To find out more about how you can help protect the marine environment contact Maritime New Zealand:

www.maritime.govt.nz or free phone 0508 22 55 22

All boat-refuelling sites are audited by the local Regional Council to ensure that spill prevention and clean-up plans are in place. People who spill fuel or oil can be prosecuted under the Resource Management Act and are liable to be fined.

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EVERY DROP COUNTS

PREVENTING FUEL AND OIL SPILLS



STOP FUEL AND OIL SPILLS

Each year hundreds of diesel, petrol and oil spills pollute our harbours and coastline.

Most spills are quite small, but even small amounts of fuel and oil can be fatal to bird and marine life and cause damage to the environment. Diesel and petrol are particularly toxic, but lubricant and hydraulic oils can also be very harmful.

Because most of the spills are of very light oil, they quickly spread out into a thin film. This oily film is very toxic, smells bad, fouls other boats, and contaminates shellfish and marine farms.

Most oil and fuel spills are the result of careless refuelling or pumping oily bilge water overboard.

HOW YOU CAN HELP?

- ▶ Follow the simple steps outlined in this brochure.
- ▶ Report all oil spills to your Regional Council. The sooner they hear about an oil spill, the better the chance becomes of minimising damage to the environment.
- ▶ Log on to www.maritimenz.govt.nz to find out more about what is being done, and what you can do to help protect New Zealand's maritime environment.

OIL IN YOUR BOAT

Many boats have oil floating in their bilges. When the bilge water is pumped out, the oil is released into the environment. To prevent bilge oil spills make sure your boat and engine are well maintained, and don't allow oil or fuel to drain into the bilge.

Check the engine for leaking fuel or oil, and immediately repair any problems.

- ▶ Stop water leaking into the boat, so you don't need to pump out the bilges so often.
- ▶ Clean up any oil in the bilges before turning on the pump. Soak up any floating oil with sorbent material. You can use newspaper or paper towels in an emergency.
- ▶ Never mix detergent with oily bilge water before pumping. This mixture can be even more toxic than oil, and is very difficult to clean up.
- ▶ Always keep a piece of sorbent material underneath the engine to soak up accidental leaks.
- ▶ If you have an automatic bilge pump, you must keep the bilges clear of oil at all times. You can install a bilge water filter that will remove most contaminants.

REFUELLING YOUR BOAT

- ▶ To prevent overflows, estimate how much fuel you need in your tanks before you start refuelling.
- ▶ Plug the scuppers and breathers with sorbent material or rags during refuelling where possible.
- ▶ Keep sorbent material on the deck and around the fuel filler to help mop up spills.
- ▶ Make sure a responsible adult monitors the entire refuelling operation. Don't let children or untrained people refuel your boat.
- ▶ Never leave the fuel pump unattended.
- ▶ Whenever possible, refuel at an approved area using a fuel pump. Avoid transferring fuel to your boat in containers.
- ▶ If you must use a container, make sure you use a large funnel. Alternatively buy a siphon hose with an integrated pump to reduce spillage.
- ▶ Oil and fuel sloshing around in your bilge increases the risk of fire or explosion, and can be toxic to occupants within the cabin. When oil is pumped out of a bilge, an unsightly residue forms that can taint the bilge and be very hard to remove.