



Motor Trade Association of SA Environmental Fact Sheet

OIL MANAGEMENT

Oil Management

Oil is a hazardous substance which can cause environmental harm. One litre of oil has the potential to pollute one million litres of water. If oil enters our rivers or oceans it can kill plants, fish, birds and mammals and can poison muscles and cockles, making them unfit for human consumption

You can be held responsible for the cost of cleaning up the damage caused by oil entering the environment from your business.

New and used oil storage

- In bunded areas
- In sealed containers free of leaks
- On sealed ground
- Undercover
- Label to identify the substance

Oil handling principles

- Carry out all repairs, servicing and painting inside a workshop
- Loading and unloading should be supervised
- Check separators
- Clean up spills immediately
- Keep material safety data sheets on site and available to staff
- Do not use oil as a dust suppressant this contaminates the soil.

Oil Separators

Oil separation systems are designed to remove oil based pollutants from waste water. Oil separators are designed to remove a maximum of 5% oil in water. Do not tip waste oil into the oil separator. Oil separators must be installed above ground in a bunded area.

The following areas should drain to an oil separator:

- Degreasing bays
- Vehicle wash bays

Oil separator management

- Service oil separators regularly in accordance with manufacturers guidelines
- At least two people in the workshop should be trained to manage the separation system
- Only dispose of water from the oil separator to the sewer if you have a trade waste permit, otherwise have it collected for disposal
- The separator is not equipped to handle coolant, acids, caustics or any other chemicals it only separates oil from water. Do not use for disposing of any other waste products

When purchasing a separator ask:

- How easy is it to service?
- Who can service the system?
- Does the supplier install the system?
- For written proof that the system will manage the oil concentrations you have

Any questions call the MTA

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