

## Remember

Oil and water don't mix; please help us keep them apart.

Help protect your environment. Oil can pollute rivers, causing harm to fish and birds and removing vital oxygen from the water.

Every year we deal with thousands of oil pollution incidents, many of which can be prevented.

If you see oil on a river, lake or stream, call our emergency hotline to report it.

## general enquiry line

08708 506 506 (Mon-Fri 8-6)

## emergency hotline

0800 80 70 60 (24hrs)

## floodline

0845 988 1188



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Environment  
Agency

# Be oil care aware

On your boat



## Follow the Oil Care Code

When you're refuelling your boat, servicing the engine or pumping out the bilges, you need to handle your oil carefully. Make sure you don't let your oil cause pollution.

Oil forms a thin layer on the surface of water which stops oxygen getting into the water. Plants, animals and fish that live in the water can suffocate.

Just 5 litres of oil can cover a lake the size of two football pitches.

Follow our simple advice and look after your oil.

## How to look after oil on your boat

- ◆ When you refuel your boat, take care not to overfill your tank or let any drips fall as spilt oil will end up in the water. Leave some room at the top of the tank so you don't lose fuel as the boat moves.
- ◆ Fill any portable oil containers away from the water's edge so that any spills don't go into the water.
- ◆ When you service your engine, carefully collect all the used oil. Keep it away from the water.
- ◆ Take used oil from your own boat to an oil-recycling bank. Check the oil bank web site at [www.oilbankline.org.uk](http://www.oilbankline.org.uk) to find your nearest one or telephone 08708 506 506, or contact your local authority recycling officer.
- ◆ Don't mix used oils with other materials, such as paint or solvents, because this makes recycling very difficult.
- ◆ Put a drip tray under your engine and gearbox, possibly with oil absorbent sheets in it, so the bilge doesn't get contaminated with oil.

- ◆ Check your bilge for oil before pumping it out. If oil is there, use absorbent sheets or pillows to remove it before pumping.
- ◆ If you have used any absorbent materials to soak up oil, make sure you dispose of them in a proper waste oil container.



## What to do if you have an oil spill

- ◆ If you are in still or slow moving water, and can safely reach the spill try using oil sorbent materials that float on the water surface and only soak up oil to remove it. Make sure you don't leave these to float away creating litter.
- ◆ If your engine or fuel system has an oil leak, stop at the nearest mooring place for repairs.
- ◆ Don't mix detergent with the oil as this will make the pollution worse.
- ◆ If you want some advice about a spill call our 24 hour emergency hotline free on 0800 80 70 60