



REFUELLING YOUR BOAT - PREVENT SPILLS

- ▶ Prevent overflows
- ▶ Plug the scuppers with rags during refuelling where possible
- ▶ Keep sorbent material on the deck to mop up spills
- ▶ Before you start refuelling, estimate how much fuel you need in your tanks
- ▶ Make sure the entire refuelling operation is monitored by a responsible adult. Never turn on the pump and walk away
- ▶ Don't let children or untrained people refuel your boat
- ▶ 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

THE LAW

All boat refuelling sites are audited by the Northland 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 for a fine.



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Environmental Hotline 0800 504 639

CARING FOR NORTHLAND AND ITS ENVIRONMENT

**Each year,
over 70 diesel and
oil spills pollute
our coastline**

**KEEP OUR
COASTLINE
CLEAN**

**Stop fuel
and oil spills**



KEEP OUR COASTLINE CLEAN

STOP FUEL AND OIL SPILLS

Each year, over 70 diesel and oil spills pollute our coastline. Most are quite small, but even in relatively small amounts fuel and oil can be fatal to birds and shellfish and spoil our unique environment which is so vital to our tourism industry and precious to New Zealanders.

Because most of these spills are of very light oil, they spread out very quickly into a thin film. Many people think that because of this they are not harmful - but light oils are very toxic to marine life, and harmful to sea-birds. They also smell bad, foul other boats, and contaminate shellfish and marine farms.

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

HOW CAN YOU HELP?

Make sure that you do not cause a spill. Read the rest of this pamphlet for advice on how to prevent spills.

Report all spills to the Northland Regional Council's 24-hour toll-free Environmental Hotline - **phone 0800 504 639**. The sooner the Regional Council hears about a spill the better chance there is of minimising damage to the environment.

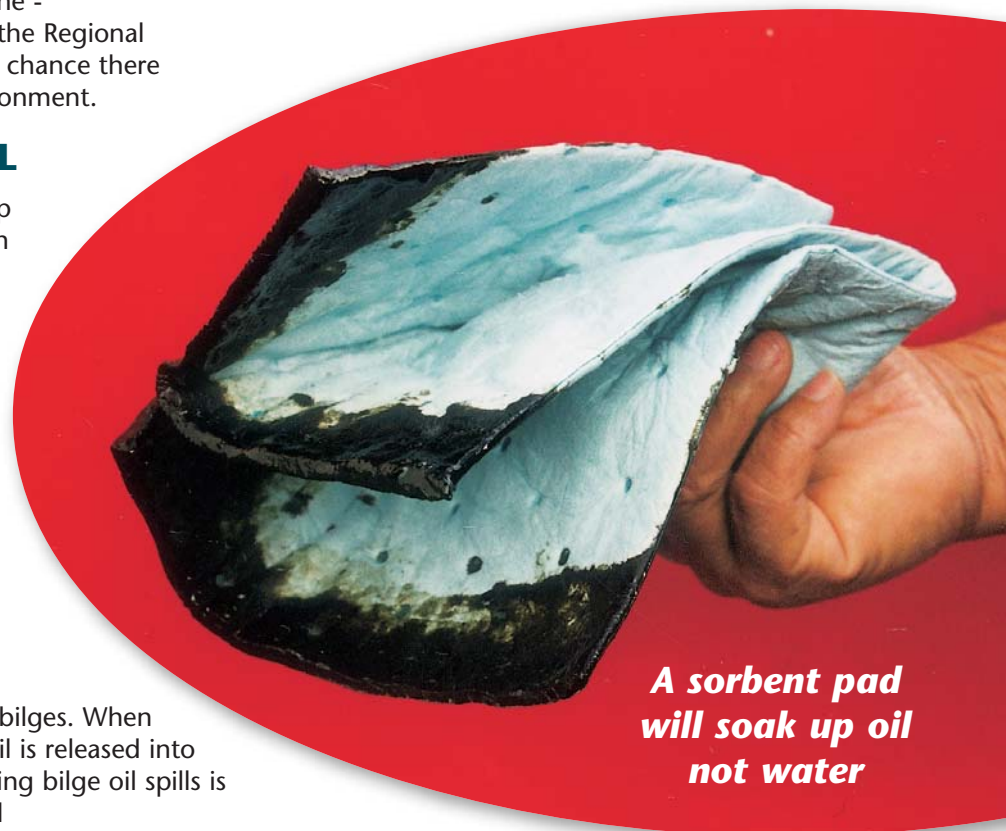
USE SORBENT MATERIAL

The most effective way of cleaning up spills is to use sorbent material, which soaks up oil, not water. Pads of this material are available at boat chandlers and marine suppliers. A piece the size of this pamphlet will soak up over a cupful of oil. It can be wrung out and re-used. Any oil should be disposed of by a specialist waste management company or at the waste oil reception facility at your marina.

KEEP YOUR BILGE WATER CLEAN

Many boats have oil floating in their bilges. When the bilge water is pumped out, the oil is released into the environment. The key to preventing bilge oil spills is good maintenance of the engine and the boat itself. This pays dividends for safety as well - your boat will be more reliable.

- ▶ Check the engine for leaking fuel or oil and immediately repair any problems.
- ▶ Stop water leaking into the boat. This will mean that you don't have 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. If you have none available, you can use newspaper or kitchen paper towels.



***A sorbent pad
will soak up oil
not water***

- ▶ 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. For larger boats, it is wise to install a bilge water filter which will remove most contaminants.

