

# Spilling the beans



HERE'S THE INSIDE INFORMATION ON SPILL CONTROL AND CONTAINMENT, FROM A COMPANY THAT'S AN EXPERT IN THE FIELD. IF YOU CHOOSE TO IGNORE IT, YOU'LL ONLY HAVE YOURSELF TO BLAME IF YOU'RE LEFT CRYING OVER SPILT MILK, OR OIL, OR OTHER FLUIDS.

Statistics show that, sooner or later, 96% of all companies will need to use a sorbent (a material that takes up fluid) to prevent or contain liquid spills. In the quarrying industry, the use of coolants, chemicals, cleaning products, lubricants and oils – plus the presence of numerous hydraulic hoses on heavy equipment – means there's always the chance of a spill, leak, or burst. There's also often the need for filtering and cleaning up oil from water in the quarries themselves.

Many spills occur in the same place over and over again, but with the right sorbent product in place you can adsorb spilled or leaked liquids before they spread, making the subsequent clean up quicker, easier and more effective.



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Advice on how and when to comply with UK Oil Storage Regulations, guidelines on Pollution Prevention, best practice, and what to do in the event of a spill can all be found at [www.environment-agency.gov.uk](http://www.environment-agency.gov.uk) (with links to the Scottish and N.I. agency websites). Meanwhile, the products and solutions you need can be found from a number of suppliers, including **ERIKS**.

**ERIKS'** comprehensive choice of oil storage equipment includes cupboards, Sump Pallets and Floors, and Containment Stores for up to forty-eight drums of oil. But even when stored carefully, accidental spills are almost unavoidable. So **ERIKS** also supply appropriate solutions to deal with them, from small in-vehicle kits to larger, easily-deployed, mobile kits.

These kits contain a range of sorbents manufactured from Melt-Blown Polypropylene (MBPP) – the most popular and effective sorbent, available in a range of forms including pads, rolls, socks, pillows, booms and sweeps.

There are three versions of MBPP, to handle three specific adsorption tasks:

- 1. Oil Only** – suitable for adsorption (liquid adheres to their fibres) of petroleum products only. They repel water, so are ideal for use when oil is spilled on standing water, such as outside on a wet day.
- 2. Maintenance/Universal** – able to adsorb most liquids (including oils, coolants, cutting fluids and general industrial liquids) but not suitable for aggressive chemicals. Unlike Oil Only products, these will also adsorb water, so are best used inside.
- 3. Chemical** – adsorb all the products mentioned above, plus harsher acids and other chemicals. It is still highly recommended to neutralise acids and alkaline products before adsorption.

You don't wait until fire breaks out to order a fire extinguisher. So why wait until a spill occurs before you put the products in place to deal with it?

