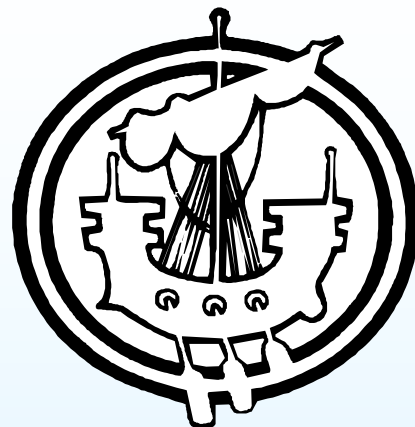


Further Advice

The Scottish Environmental Protection Agency (SEPA) regulate all commercial oil tanks and tanks >2500 litres, and must comply with The Water Environment (Oil Storage) (Scotland) Regulations 2006. Further information can be obtained from the local SEPA office on 01851 706477 or online at www.sepa.org.uk



Comhairle nan Eilean Siar

Development Department
Sandwick Road
Stornoway
Isle of Lewis HSI 2BW

Phone: 01851 822 694
E-mail: eh@cne-siar.gov.uk



OIL STORAGE

WHAT YOU SHOULD KNOW



Comhairle nan Eilean Siar

Phone 01851 822 694

ISSUES

Faulty or badly maintained oil tanks can result in leaks. Over the last few years we have seen an increasing number of pollution incidents caused by oil tanks. These can be difficult and costly to clean up.

Sometimes people have to be evacuated from their homes due to the fumes. Oil spills can be relatively straightforward to clean up if action is taken quickly.

- Oil is the commonest pollutant in the UK.
- Safety, security, access and maintenance need to be taken into account when storing oil.
- A leak of oil in or near your home could cause a risk to your health. Fumes from the oil can result in symptoms such as; drowsiness, headaches, nausea, skin rashes and sore throats.
- In some circumstances evacuation of property is necessary until the oil is cleaned up
- If you have plastic water supply pipes the oil could penetrate the plastic allowing oil to contaminate the water giving rise to odours and taints. Drinking water contaminated with oil can be a serious risk to your health.



WHAT CAN YOU DO?

- Check that your insurance policy covers oil leaks. If it doesn't you should include this in your cover. If a leak occurs and you are not insured you may have to pay for the clean-up yourself.
- New or altered domestic oil tanks are regulated by the Building (Scotland) Amendment Regulations 2006.
- Householders must apply for a building warrant to ensure the tank is installed and located in a suitable place, further information can be obtained from the local Building Standards office on 01851 822 692.
- Regularly check and maintain your oil tank and oil supply pipes to prevent any leaks. The cost of a service is considerably less than paying for the clean up of an oil spill.
- Pipework only has a limited life expectancy and should be replaced regularly. DO not forget to get this checked when getting your boiler serviced.
- If your tank is not bunded consider building one, they should be able to contain 110% of the contents of the tank.
- Be aware of how much oil you use, if the level drops suddenly you will know to check for leaks immediately.
- Have the entire system; tank, pipes and boiler checked regularly by a competent person.
- Be aware of any oily smells or black stains around the tank, this may indicate an oil leak.
- Ensure that the person installing or servicing your oil heating system is OFTEC qualified, ask to see their ID. This can be checked online or with

TREATMENT

The following treatment options are normally used to clean up sites contaminated with oil:

- Oil booms
- Absorbant pads
- Sand
- Absorbant pellets
- Bioremediation
- Aeration
- Water skimming
- Pumps etc.



Materials such as pads, booms and absorbent pellets can be sourced locally. Contact Environmental Health for further information and guidance.

Pads and booms can be disposed off in your normal waste stream, however **contaminated soil is not allowed to be put into your organic waste bin, it is an offence to do so.**

IT IS IN YOUR OWN INTERESTS TO PREVENT AN OIL LEAK

Comhairle nan Eilean Siar

Development Department
Sandwick Road
Stornoway
Isle of Lewis HSI 2BW

Phone: 01851 822 694
E-mail: eh@cne-siar.gov.uk