

HSEQ Information

2 September 2015 – No. 15/11

Disposal of Used Oil Spill Absorbent

Recently MWPA has started buying a new type of oil spill absorbent called Sokerol. This new product has several benefits over traditional oil spill absorbents, the two key ones being:

- Sokerol can be used on almost any type of liquid spills (i.e. oil, petrol, diesel, hydraulic oils, acids, chemicals, paint etc.), and
- Sokerol is 100% organic, naturally biodegradable and non-leachable meaning it can be disposed of directly into the general waste stream.

Sokerol will gradually replace the absorbents used in spill kits located around the Port, when old stock is used it will be replaced with this new product. Sokerol is stored within 10kg bags and looks like the pictures below.



Traditional oil spill absorbents (peat, kitty litter) bind the oil to their surface, however once collected and disposed of in landfill this oil is able to leach out, potentially contaminating groundwater. This is why MWPA provide hydrocarbon waste receptacles around the Port so that the waste is treated correctly at Meru landfill.

Sokerol has been laboratory tested for leachability of hydrocarbons and meets the Australian Standard, meaning that when placed in landfill, the oil it has absorbed is not able to leach back out. This will mean that eventually, when we are using Sokerol only, we will be able to place it directly into general waste receptacles, however this will only be for hydrocarbon based wastes. If used for other waste, such as chemical or acids, please contact the HSEQ Department for disposal advice.

Please note if you are unsure which absorbent product you are currently using (as most spill kits still contain kitty litter or peat) please continue to dispose of the waste via the blue hydrocarbon bins.

If you wish to investigate any further the following website has more information about the product <http://www.sokerol.com/commercial-industrial> or contact the Environmental Officer if you have further questions.

Russell Stevens
Environmental Officer