

Mixed Fuel Incidents

Occur when customers fill a vehicle with the wrong fuel:

- Clear sign posting and customer education is necessary.
- An appropriate method for the disposal of recovered batches of mixed fuels needs to be developed and staff should be trained to follow this procedure.
- Provide details for customers of companies capable of removing mixed fuel and disposing of the waste correctly.
- Contact the pollution hotline immediately if fuel is being drained into or has the potential to enter the stormwater system.



Dumped mixed fuel incident draining into the stormwater system

Maintenance of Stormwater Drainage Systems

- Drains should be labelled to indicate their function e.g. stormwater/sewer.
- Oil separators should be regularly inspected and cleaned out if any significant amount of hydrocarbon is present.
- All staff should be trained on the maintenance and operation of separators.

Chemical storage

All chemicals including oils, fuels and other fluids should be stored in a safe and secure storage facility.

The Law

In New Zealand the Resource Management Act (1991) is the law that protects our environment. In the Auckland region it is illegal for any substance to enter water either directly, through the stormwater system or via the contamination of land without prior authorisation from the Auckland Regional Council. Polluters can face a fine of up to \$600,000 for breaches of the Resource Management Act.

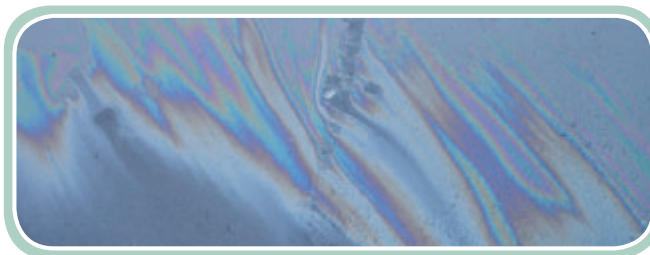
Managers: You are responsible for the actions of your staff. Make sure you train them well, and give them the correct equipment to respond to spills.

Cashiers/Pump attendants and other staff: You must respond to spills as you have been trained and follow company procedures. If you cause pollution you could receive a fine or even be prosecuted. If you do not feel you have adequate training on how to deal with spills, request training from your manager.

Remember

- Even small quantities of seemingly harmless materials can damage the environment.
- Always have a current Spill Response Plan, equipment handy and your staff well trained, so that all spilt material can be cleaned up immediately and safely.
- **Clean up any spilt product immediately – do not wash it down the nearest drain!!**

24 Hour Pollution Response Hotline
(09) 377 3107



pollutionfacts

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Pollution

and the Auckland Region

Service Stations

Service stations store bulk hazardous chemicals which have the potential to contaminate land or water. Pollutants such as fuels, oils, detergents and other waste materials from vehicles can pollute waterways, kill aquatic life and destroy habitats.



Any spill that enters the stormwater system or unsealed ground must be reported immediately to the Auckland Regional Council's Pollution Hotline on (09) 377 3107.

Common Types of Incidents

Every day service stations produce pollutants from many sources including:

- Customers putting the wrong fuel in their vehicle and emptying waste fuel into the stormwater system.
- Drips and spills from pumps while filling vehicles.
- Wash water from windscreen and forecourt cleaning.
- Spills while filling underground tanks.
- Cars leaking fuel or oil onto the ground



Fuel spill that occurred while filling a vehicle

Possible Effects on the Environment from Pollution Incidents:

Fuels oils and detergents can:

- Poison and burn animals, plants and bacteria.
- Restrict light entering water making it difficult for animals to find food and for plants to get energy (light).
- Smother organisms and/or irritate and burn the gills and eyes of fish.
- Significantly alter or destroy habitats.
- Make water unhealthy for humans to drink or swim in and make fish and shellfish poisonous if consumed.
- Reduce oxygen levels in waterways.



Fuel spill into the stormwater system polluting a stream

Any affected stream may take many years to recover.

Spill Response Plans (SRP)

All service stations must have a SRP tailored to the site's operation and drainage system, outlining action to be taken to prevent spilt material contaminating land or entering the stormwater.

SRP must at least include the following:

- **A spill kit** – Spill kits should always be fully stocked with containment and clean up materials and stored in places of highest risk e.g. on the forecourt. This will facilitate an immediate response should a spill occur. A kit should include at least one large bag of industrial absorbent material (large sites may require more than 1 bag).
- **Instructions** – Outlining what action to take in the event of a spill with a list of emergency contact numbers, personnel and relevant authorities. This should include the ARC's 24hr Pollution Hotline number (09) 3773107.
- **Site drainage plans** – An up to date copy of the sites drainage plans located in or near the spill kit and a second copy inside the shop.



Staff Training

- Train all employees on how to prevent, control, contain and clean up spills.
- Ensure any new staff members are trained.
- Document all training that employees receive and undertake regular refreshers.
- Instruct staff to never wash down spills, train staff in dry cleaning methods such as applying absorbents.
- If staff have to wash an area down, provide a wet-vac or another method that will contain the waste.
- Report spill incidents immediately to the ARC Pollution Hotline 09 377 3107 if necessary.
- **Shut-off valve** – A shut off valve should prevent all water and contaminants leaving the interceptor and entering the stormwater system. **Ensure that staff are aware how to shut off the valve correctly or stormwater contamination may occur!!**

Forecourt Management

Forecourt wash and rinse water must not be allowed to enter the site's stormwater drainage system without proper treatment and the approval of the Auckland Regional Council.

1. Cleaning your forecourt

- Use a Broom to clean the forecourt area, collect the dust and dispose of it in a trade waste bin or by using a suitably licensed contractor.
- Should more thorough cleaning of the forecourt be required, then a method must be used that involves the collection of all wastes (wash and rinse water) generated, for recycling or disposal as a trade waste.
- All waste materials must be regularly collected from silt traps, drains, settlement pits and separators and must be disposed of as trade waste.

2. Wind Screen Cleaning

- Service stations should not dispose of windscreen wash water onto the forecourt or into the nearest stormwater drain. Windscreen wash water must be disposed of as a trade waste. The interceptor will not function correctly if detergents are allowed to enter it, this will result in contamination of the stormwater system!!

3. Vehicle Cleaning

- All wastewater from car washing must be either recycled or disposed of as a trade waste.
- Wastewater collection systems must prevent stormwater contamination from over-spray and vehicle tracking.

Should you wish to dispose of any of the wastewater to the sewer or tradewaste system you must first obtain a 'consent to discharge wastewater' from the relevant authority.

Report all spills that may enter stormwater to the 24 hour pollution hotline: (09) 377 3107