

Why must we protect Jersey's water resource?

The Island's water resource supports a large diversity of wildlife and is essential for the provision of safe and clean drinking water.



An Island stream

The Island's water supply is limited and is only replenished by rainwater.

The groundwater beneath Jersey occurs at generally shallow depths. This makes the Island's water resources susceptible to water pollution.

Oil is the most common cause of pollution. Approximately 40 pollution incidents, involving 8,000 litres of oil pollute our environment each year.

Heating oil is extremely damaging to the water environment, ruining habitats and damaging plants and wildlife.

Oil is a highly visible form of pollution as it floats on the water's surface. It can dissolve into water, which makes it difficult and costly to clean up.



Oil pollution of a watercourse can lead to the loss of drinking water.

Oil on the surface of a pond

To report pollution contact the
Hotline number

Tel: 709535

Further Information

Environmental Protection (Jersey):
www.gov.je

Department for Infrastructure (Jersey):
www.gov.je

Energy Institute (UK):
www.energyinst.org.uk

OFTEC (UK advisory body on domestic heating oil)
www.oftec.org

The Environment Agency (UK):
www.environment-agency.gov.uk

**Department of the Environment
Howard Davis Farm
La Route de la Trinité
Trinity
JE3 5JP
Phone: (01534) 441600**

This leaflet should be read in conjunction with the Water Made Clearer – Oil pollution and the aquatic environment Leaflet – available from the Department of the Environment .

*The Building Bye-laws (Jersey) 2007, can be found at: www.gov.je or by contacting Building Control on (01534) 448400.

States of Jersey

Pollution Prevention Guidance

**Code of Best
Practice
for fuel distribution
companies,
heating engineers
and plumbers**



Oil in a stream

A guidance leaflet produced by the
Oil Care Group

Code of Best Practice

The following code of best practise should be followed by all fuel distribution companies, heating engineers and plumbers to reduce the risk of oil polluting the environment.

Environmental Protection must be contacted (Pollution Hotline Tel: 709535) if there has been any spill of oil, 5 litres or more, arising from an oil tank, pipework or during filling/emptying/servicing an oil tank or boiler.

All oil tanks must display an Oil Care sticker, so that the owner is aware of the pollution hotline number (stickers can be obtained from the Department of the Environment, Tel: 441600).



Oil tank sticker

Ensure householders understand that the oil tank, pipework (including off-set fill pipes) and fuel is their responsibility. It is also the householders responsibility to maintain their oil tank and pipework. Oil lost to the aquatic environment can constitute an Offence under the Water Pollution (Jersey) Law, 2000.

Ensure that oil tanks and pipework are fitted according to the requirements of the Building Bye-laws (Jersey) 2007*.



Oil contamination of a borehole

When filling oil tanks or servicing boilers, it is important that oil tanks are inspected for the following faults:

- Rusty/buried oil filter bowl
- Rusty tank
- Sun bleaching/cracking of plastic tanks
- Rusty or corroded feed pipes, couplings or valves
- Tank without a solid base and/or plinth or unprotected in areas of heavy traffic
- Sight gauge has been knocked or not properly secured to the tank
- No bund for single skinned tanks
- Bund full of water or rubbish
- Hole in bund
- No oil tank sticker displayed on the tanks
- Any other faults considered to be a potential environmental risk.

Ensure that all drivers and engineers are aware that an oil tank should not be filled if they cannot be sure, to their best ability, that the tank and pipework (including off-set fill pipes) is safe.

In cases where it is considered that the oil tank or pipework is unsafe and the owner is not adhering to the advice given, please contact Environmental Protection, who can issue a site improvement notice, under The Water Pollution (Jersey) Law, 2000.



Leaking oil filter

Advise householders that it is best environmental practice to turn off sight gauges on oil tanks and close valves between coupled tanks.

Where possible, monitor unusual or irregular requests for deliveries of fuel, that may signify a leaking oil tank.

Ensure that the drivers are able to gain safe access to all tanks and be able to follow company guidelines when filling tanks.

Ensure that when filling an oil tank which is out of sight from the tanker vehicle, that a shut-off valve (or equivalent) is used and company procedures are followed. Where appropriate a delivery person should be at each end of the fuel filler pipe.