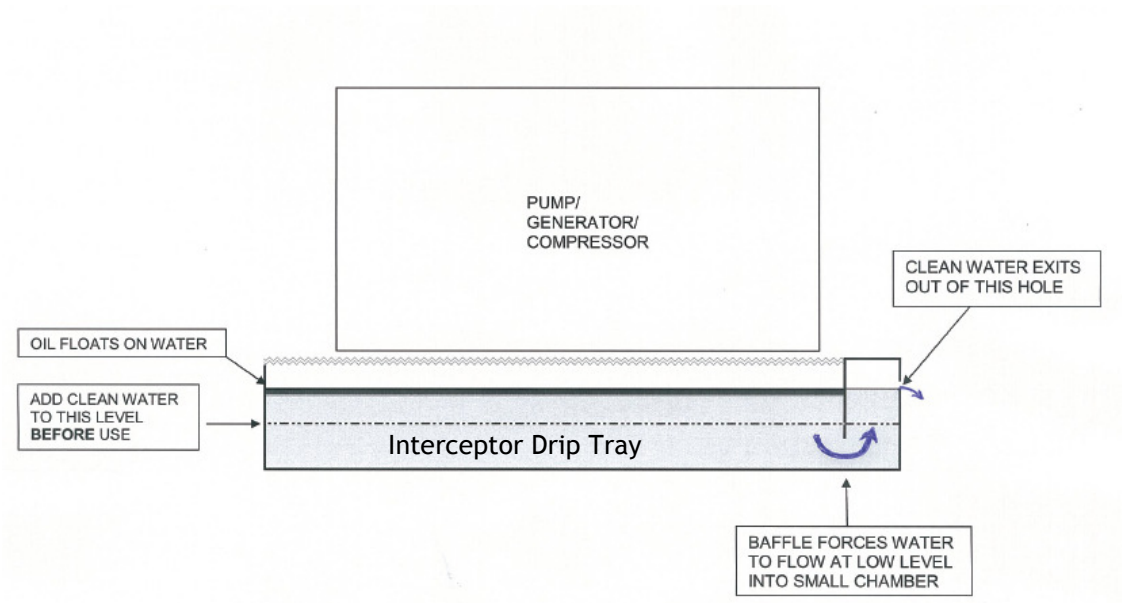
Tool Box Talk

Focus on Performance

Sust.33

Interceptor Drip Trays

Interceptor drip trays are used to prevent leaks of oil from pumps, generators and compressors from causing ground contamination. Unlike traditional drip trays, if it rains and they fill up with water, the excess water drains away but the oil does not escape. However, it's important that they are set up and operated properly.



Interceptor drip trays work because oil floats on water.

Any oil that leaks from the plant, drips through the slatted top of the drip tray and into the main chamber.

There is an outlet from the small chamber at the end of the drip tray to allow water to escape.

A baffle across the full width of the drip tray forces water to flow from the large chamber to the small chamber, through the gap at the bottom.

Oil can't get into the small chamber because it's floating on top of the water in the large chamber.

Any rain water dripping through the slatted top mixes with the water already in the drip tray. This forces water under the baffle and out through the outlet at the end.

Interceptor drip trays collect oil. **Never** tip them up to get rid of the water inside. This would cause oil contamination of the ground which is a criminal offence.

Where do we use interceptor drip trays on this site?

Have we set them up and maintained them in line with this talk?

How are we going to make sure we use these interceptors properly in future?

If you have any queries regarding the content of this tool box talk please contact your Sustainability Advisor or Line Manager.

Interserve

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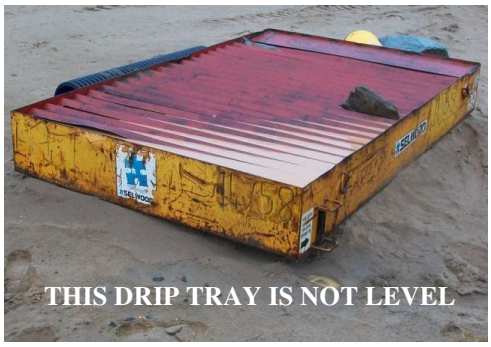
Interceptor Drip Trays

Set up

Visually check the drip tray for signs of damage. If it leaks, it won't work.



Site the interceptor drip tray on level ground. If the ground is sloping, oily water could overflow out the top, causing oil contamination of the ground.

Fill the drip tray initially with clean water to just below overflowing. This shows you if the drip tray is level. Water should only escape from the outlet and not over the side. Allow the water to drain away to its working level.

Operation

Check the drip tray the day after you set it up to make sure it's holding water.

Check the drip tray at least weekly and after each refuelling event, to make sure oil is not seeping out of the outlet and that the water is at the correct level – below the outlet level means it needs topping up; above the outlet level means the outlet is blocked. If either of these situations is allowed to continue, the ground will be contaminated with oil.

Check the drip tray immediately if there is a large leak or spillage during refuelling.

Emptying the drip tray

Visually check the drip tray for oil on the surface of the water. If there's just a sheen on the surface, use a small petrol pump to empty the clean water by pushing the suction hose through the slatted top to the bottom of the tray. Remember oil floats on top so pump must be at the bottom.

Pump the water out onto unmade ground, continuously checking that it is clean. Don't pump any water contaminated with oil onto the ground.

Once the clean water has been removed, pump out the oil contaminated residue into a suitable container to hold it temporarily. Add oil absorbent pads to the surface and sweep them to soak up any oil.

Dispose of the contaminated pads as hazardous waste. Pour any clean water out of the container and allow to soak away on unmade ground.

If there's a lot of oil in the drip tray because of a spillage of fuel or similar, pump the residual oily water into a container (e.g.: Intermediate Bulk Containers (IBCs) – labelled and bunded) and store on site until it can be removed by a licensed contractor as hazardous waste.

Questions

Why doesn't oil leak out of an interceptor drip tray?

Why is it important to fill the drip tray with clean water?

What must you do if you see oil seeping out of the outlet?

Why must you remove the oil absorbent pads and surface oil before moving the drip tray?

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