

Pollution from the storage of oil and similar substances is becoming a significant environmental problem. The majority of pollution incidents involve oil and are often caused by leaks from tanks, either during delivery/filling of the tank or as a result of storage. There are approximately 5,000 reported incidents involving spillages of oil every year.

The Control of Pollution (Oil Storage) Regulations came into full effect on 1st September 2005 and apply to oil containers with a capacity of more than 200 litres. The regulations are designed to help improve the storage of oil and reduce the number of incidents. The regulations will help stop these incidents by forcing tank owners to use a secondary containment facility, such a bund or drip tray, to prevent oil escaping into the environment.

* Legislation applies to England only

Key features of The Control of Pollution (Oil Storage) Regulation 2001:

- Tanks, drums and any other containers must be strong enough to hold oil without leaking
 - A bund or drip tray must be provided to catch oil leaking from the container or its ancillary pipework and equipment
 - The bund must be able to contain 110% of the maximum contents of the oil container
 - If more than one container is stored, the bund should be capable of storing 110% of the largest tank or 25% of the total storage capacity, depending on which is greater
 - Any equipment such as the valve, sight gauge, filter, vent pipe must be kept within the bund when not in use
 - Bunds should not be fitted with drainage valves
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- Spill pallets (2007/8 catalogue pages 2149 - 2153)

For more information on the Control of Pollution (Oil Storage) Regulation 2001 visit:
www.environment-agency.gov.uk