

AN ABSORBING SUBJECT

MOTOR POOLS AND MAINTENANCE SHOPS ARE HOME TO FUEL, OIL, LUBRICANTS, CLEANING SOLVENT, DEGREASER, ANTIFREEZE AND BRAKE FLUID. SOONER OR LATER, SPILLS OR LEAKS OCCUR.

THAT'S WHEN YOU STEP IN TO CONTAIN, CONTROL AND ABSORB THEM QUICKLY AND SAFELY.



THE ARMY SUPPLY SYSTEM HAS A VARIETY OF SPILL KITS AND ABSORBENTS FOR CLEAN-UP.



YOU'VE PROBABLY USED ABSORBENTS MADE MOSTLY OF CLAY. THOSE ARE COMMONLY KNOWN AS DRY SWEEP OR KITTY LITTER.

BUT HAVE YOU USED THE NEWER ORGANIC ABSORBENTS MADE OF PLANT CELLULOSE (WOOD PULP)?



- They absorb better than clay-based products. That means you'll use less. They also may have higher up-front costs. But because you'll use less, organic products could save you money in the long run.
- Their recycling costs are cheaper than the disposal costs of clay products.
- Some varieties clump like some cat litters.
- They make clean-up quicker, easier and more efficient
- The loose-sweep form of organic products changes color when you apply it. Its natural tan changes to gray and then to black as the sweep absorbs the spill. When it turns completely black, it's time to change the sweep.
- The loose-sweep form of organic products is lighter than clay absorbents. If you use it outside, a stiff breeze can blow it away.
- Even though organic absorbents work well in sopping up spills, they can leave stains behind. Use general purpose detergent, NSN 7930-00-926-5280, to get rid of stains.
- Once they become soaked with petroleum, oil or lubricants (POL), you must handle them as hazardous waste—just as you would a clay absorbent.

Clean up is quicker and easier



Handle dirty absorbent as hazardous waste



As always, if you have any questions about hazardous materials, talk with your unit's HAZMAT officer or NCO. Or talk with the people at the environmental office supporting your unit or installation.



THESE ARE SOME ORGANIC ABSORBENTS YOU CAN ORDER THROUGH THE DEFENSE LOGISTICS AGENCY (DLA).

Item	NSN 4235-01-	Item	NSN 4235-01-
Spill clean-up kit	572-3891	Spill station	572-3936
20-lb bag	572-3892	Absorbent sock	572-3929
4-lb pouch	572-3902	Absorbent pillow	572-3933
20-lb bag, sweeping compound	572-3908	23-lb bag	436-8317*
		25-qt (50-lb) bag	430-2003

* Order on DD Form 1348-6 and put "NSN not on the AMDF" in the REMARKS block.

Before You Order

DO YOUR HOMEWORK BEFORE YOU CHOOSE AN ABSORBENT. HERE ARE SOME QUESTIONS TO CONSIDER...

- How effectively does it absorb POL spills and leaks?
- What are its total costs, including purchase, disposal, and storage and handling?
- How will you dispose of it? By burning? Putting it in a landfill? Recycling? Treating it biologically?

REMEMBER, ONCE THE ABSORBENT IS SOAKED WITH POL, YOU MUST HANDLE IT AS **HAZARDOUS WASTE.**

DISCUSS SOME OF THESE MATTERS—**ESPECIALLY DISPOSAL**—WITH YOUR UNIT'S HAZMAT OFFICER OR NCO. OR TALK WITH THE PEOPLE AT THE ENVIRONMENTAL OFFICE SUPPORTING YOUR UNIT OR INSTALLATION.

An Ounce of Prevention

THERE'S ONE SURE WAY TO AVOID CLEANING UP VEHICLE LEAKS...

CATCH LEAKING FLUIDS BEFORE THEY GET OUT OF CONTROL. PUT SOME DRIP PANS UNDER LEAKS UNTIL YOU GET THEM FIXED.

PLASTIC DRIP PANS CAN CRACK AND LEAK. BUT RUBBER PANS WON'T CRACK, AND THEY'LL SNAP BACK IF THEY'RE CRUSHED. GET RUBBER PANS WITH THESE NSNs...

Rubber pans are more durable



Size	NSN 4940-01-490-
3 gal	2455
6 1/2 gal	2463
15 gal	2470

THE FOLLOWING RUBBER PANS COME WITH A 6-FT CHAIN AND CLIP FOR ATTACHING THE PAN TO YOUR EQUIPMENT...

Size	NSN 4940-01-
3 gal	504-5270
6 1/2 gal	504-5273
15 gal	505-0680