


NATIONAL RIVERS AUTHORITY
THAMES REGION


National Rivers Authority Information Centre Head Office Class No Accession No.
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POLLUTION PREVENTION GUIDELINES
GENERAL GUIDE TO THE PREVENTION OF POLLUTION OF CONTROLLED WATERS

These notes are for guidance only. Each site will be considered according to the individual circumstances and early consultation with your local National Rivers Authority Water Quality Office is advisable. Details of these offices will be found at the end of these guidelines.

1. GENERAL

The NRA is responsible for the protection of "controlled waters" from pollution under the Water Resources Act of 1991, and it is an offence under the Act to cause such pollution, either deliberately or accidentally. "Controlled waters" include all watercourses and water contained in underground strata. The formal consent of the National Rivers Authority is required for many discharge to controlled waters. This includes both direct discharges and discharges to soakaways. Such consents are not granted automatically.

2. SURFACE WATER DISPOSAL
a. Oil Separators (Interceptors)

An oil separator may be required, depending on the type of development. A set of guidelines detailing when a separator is required and separator design is available.

b. Car Parks and Yards

Due to the risk of pollution from oil, petrol or chemical spills, surface water systems serving these areas may require oil separation. Covered areas should drain to the foul sewer if possible. Under some circumstances a cut off valve may be required to prevent polluting discharges reaching controlled waters.

c. Garage Forecourts and Fuel Delivery Areas

Due to the potential for pollution from these sites, oil separation will be required. Under normal circumstances site drainage may pass to the surface water system, although in exceptional cases connection to the foul sewer may be necessary. Effluent from the cleaning of forecourts must not be discharged to controlled waters. The provision of cut-off valves and raised kerb surrounds may be required.

d. Vehicle Wash

Vehicle wash waters should not be discharged to the surface water drains, watercourses or soakaways. Developers should consult the Water Utilities Trade Effluent Control staff regarding the acceptability of discharging this drainage to the foul sewer. Alternatively, vehicle wash recycling systems are available.

e. Unloading Bays and Waste Compactor Sites

Consultation with the NRA is required as these areas may have to be isolated and connected to the foul sewer, particularly if chemicals, refuse or other polluting matter is handled. Flow cut-off valves and raised kerb surrounds may be required.

3. OIL STORAGE AND PIPELINES

a. Separate guidelines for above ground oil storage tanks are available. In general any oil storage tank and oil stored in drums should be sited on an impervious base within an oil-tight bund. No damp course should be provided in the bund wall structure and there should be no drainage outlet. The bunded area should be capable of containing 110% of the volume of the tank and all fill pipes, draw pipes and sight gauges should be enclosed within its curtilage. The tank vent pipe should be directed downwards into the bund.

b. Underground oil tanks and pipelines may be subject to damage and corrosion and above ground facilities are preferred. When this is not practicable appropriate protective measures against damage and corrosion should be provided. In some vulnerable areas underground tanks may be subject to special restrictions.

4. SEWAGE DISPOSAL

All foul sewage from any development should pass to the local foul sewer if possible. Where there is no foul sewer available or specific problems arise, then other arrangements should be discussed with the NRA. The alternatives will normally require a formal consent from the Authority. Further advice is available in separate guidelines regarding disposal of sewage.

5. CHEMICAL STORAGE AREAS

Drainage from these areas may present special problems and full consultation with the NRA should take place to minimise the risk of pollution.

6. CONSTRUCTION AND DEMOLITION SITES

Detailed guidelines for these sites and for those working in or near watercourses are available separately. However, it is important to note that where site dewatering is involved the prior approval of the NRA should be obtained. Any discharge must be free from solids in suspension, oil, or other polluting materials.

7. FLOODPLAIN DEVELOPMENTS

All drainage manhole covers which lie within a flood plain should be of screwdown cover design and sink waste gullies should be built up above flood level.

For further information, or in the event of pollution, please contact your nearest NRA Water Quality office at:-

READING	0734 311422	OXFORD	0865 749400
WALTHAM CROSS	0992 35566	AMERSHAM	0494 722361
LONDON SE	081 310 5500	GUILDFORD	0483 577655

... or at all times on Freefone 0800-252768

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ENVIRONMENT AGENCY



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