

BUREAU OF RECLAMATION  
FACILITIES INSTRUCTIONS, STANDARDS, & TECHNIQUES

**Volume 4 - 9**

# **OIL-ABSORBENT MATERIALS**

AUGUST 1992

## Oil-Absorbent Materials

Normal discharge of oil into a sump was not of great concern in the past, but, with the present environmental programs, removing oil from water in sumps and other areas has become important. One method of removing the oil is the use of an oil-absorbent material in pillow form. When placed in a sump, the pillows float and absorb oil as it comes to the surface. As it is not a fixed system like a skim installation, it can also be readily used in areas where accidental oil contamination develops. The fact that maintenance equipment costs are minimized also makes this approach attractive. In large sumps where sump discharge and oil contamination is great, economics may dictate a skim system, in which case oil-absorbent materials could still be valuable as a supplement.

There are some excellent oil-absorbent materials available. Two products in this category are:

**1. Dica-Sorb™.** Detailed information and sources of supply for this product can be obtained from Dicalite Division, Grefco, Inc., 630 Shatto Place, Los Angeles, California 90005.

This product comes in a bag (18 lbs) or pillow form. The pillow, which is smaller than the bag, can be floated on the water surface. One project reports that a pillow will soak up 55 to 60 pounds of oil.

This product is recommended by the manufacturer for removal of oil from fresh or salt water, in open areas, harbors, flowing streams, or other oil spoils in industrial areas.

**2. SORB-OIL.** Detailed information on this product can be obtained from Innova Corporation, SORB-OIL Sales Division, 444 Ravenna Boulevard, Seattle, Washington 98115, telephone (206) 524-4888.