

SCOPE

Substrates: all types
Pollution: light to moderate
Pollutant: low to medium viscosity
Sea: with or without tides



EQUIPMENT NEEDED

Basic equipment:

- Sorbent materials (such as straw)
- Oleophilic sorbents (in bulk)
- Blower or ejector

Extra equipment:

- Manual collection (rake, hand skimmer, fork)
- Skimmer (on the water)
- Suction unit (on land)

DESCRIPTION/PRINCIPLE

Involves spreading straw or bulk sorbents on the upper foreshore (or at the water's edge for non-tidal seas) in anticipation of an arrival of pollutant (technique associated with another clean-up technique such as surfwashing, tilling or underwater agitation) so as to limit the spreading of the pollution, the penetration of the pollutant into the sediments and to facilitate recovery. The sorbents are left in place until they are impregnated with pollutant, then recovered using manual or mechanical means or by suction.

CONDITIONS OF USE

Pollution: moderate to heavy: fresh oil, fluid to moderately viscous.
Substrate: all types.
Site: all types where the layout allows for recovery of sorbents (creeks, for example, but not long straight lines of dunes).

IMPACT ON THE ENVIRONMENT

Physical/biological: very limited to none (providing that the oiled sorbents are recovered); prevents or greatly limits the oiling of sediment.

PERFORMANCE

Yield: deployment and recovery times vary.
Waste: oiled sorbents and materials.

OBSERVATIONS

- Sorbents must be recovered; do not use bulk sorbents in the presence of vegetation.
- Pressurised ejection can be effective on viscous pollutant (requires specialised equipment).
- Spreading sorbent materials and oleophilic sorbents in parallel strips on the foreshore allows progressive impregnation of the pollutant.
- Should be implemented on a small scale (as this technique requires a lot of material).