

# How To Choose Maintenance Absorbents

Not all spills and leaks warrant the use of your spill kit.

Spill kits should only be used for spill response. A small spill of a few litres, maybe more of a maintenance issue. Yet these smaller spills accumulatively can still impact the environment by polluting soils, groundwater and stormwater drains. Therefore part of your action plan to manage spills should be selection of appropriate maintenance absorbents.



Maintenance absorbents consist mainly of pads, rolls and pillows and/or a ground floor absorbent, e.g. bioactive organic particulate, paper kitty litter, clay kitty litter etc.

## Choosing a Maintenance Absorbent

The following questions and answers will help you make a selection;



### Could the spill be in or around water?

If you only wish to absorb hydrocarbons and not water, then you must choose an "Oil & Fuel Selective Absorbent". Most hydrocarbons will float on the water and are easily absorbed using Oil & Fuel Absorbents (white in colour).

### What type of liquid will the spill be?

If it is hydrocarbons then use white "Oil & Fuel" Absorbents. If it is an aggressive acid or base then use pink "Chemical" absorbents. If its mixed liquids like degreasers, water, coolants or small amounts of oils & fuels then use grey "Maintenance" absorbents.

### Could the spill be on unsealed surfaces?

Spills that have soaked into soils are more difficult to absorb than if they were on a sealed surface. If free liquid exists use a pad or pillow to absorb the puddles. The remaining spill in the soil may be mixed with a bioactive ground absorbent (Global Peat).

As with other jobs, you may find you need more than one "tool" to do the task. For example, you may need a different absorbent for outdoors on unsealed surfaces to one for indoor use.

## Different Variety of Maintenance Absorbents

For example absorbents can be made of synthetic Polypropylene or organic cotton.

**Why would I choose polypropylene absorbents ?** Polypropylene offers you a great absorbency capacity relative to cost. It is clean and light-weight to handle. It holds together well and has virtually no problems with shelf life. Disposal is to high temperature incineration or appropriate landfill.

**Why would I choose organic absorbents?** Hisorb is a cotton based sustainable absorbent with an extremely high absorbency rate. It is also very light and clean to use and can be land farmed. It is not as compact to transport as polypropylene and is slightly more expensive.

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### Different choices of Maintenance Products

**Absorbent Pads** 45cm x 45cm - Pre-cut for easy use. For cleanup of smaller spills.

**Absorbent Rolls** - Available in various lengths 40m or 50m most common. Height is .9m, 1m or 1.1m.

Cut to place on workbenches, on shelves or under machinery.

(Roll Holders makes dispensing of rolls easier)

**Absorbent Mats** 90cm x 90cm Ideal for use under large vehicles to catch leaks & drips.

**Carton of pads** - The carton contains 15m of pads, 38cm wide, perforated every 37cm

**Pillows** - For absorbing larger puddles, blocking drains & catching drips.



The table below helps select absorbents for different areas.

	Product Name	Code	Absorbs	Land farm	Incinerate
Inside Warehouses Oils / Fuels	Poly Pads Heavy Duty	MBP	Oil/Fuels	No	Yes
	Poly Rolls Medium	MBBR40.9	Oil/Fuels	No	Yes
	Poly Rolls Heavy Duty	MBR40.9	Oil/Fuels	No	Yes
	Poly Large Pillow	PPFO	Oil/Fuels	No	Yes
	HiSorb Pads	HSP	Oil/Fuels	Yes	Yes
	HiSorb Roll	HSR.9	Oil/Fuels	Yes	Yes
	Hisorb Pillow	OPFO	Oil/Fuels	Yes	Yes
Inside Warehouses Aggressive Chemicals	Pads	CPP	All liquids	No	If safe to do so
	Rolls	CR40.9	All liquids	No	If safe to do so
	Large Pillow	PPC	All Liquids	No	If safe to do so
Inside Warehouses Non-Aggressive Chemicals	Pads	MXPU	All liquids	No	If safe to do so
	Rolls	MXPU50.82	All liquids	No	If safe to do so
	Carton of pads	MS15.38	All Liquids	No	If safe to do so

The table below helps select which Ground & Floor absorbent to choose for which location.

	Product Name	Code	Absorbs	Land farm	Incinerate
Inside Warehouses	Floorsorb	FS7	All liquids	Yes	If safe to do so
	Budgetsorb	BS7	All liquids	Yes	If safe to do so
Unsealed Areas, roads, hardstands	Global Peat	PMPB	Oil/Fuels	Yes	Yes
Sealed Areas, Roads & Hardstands	Prosorb	proSORB	All liquids	No	No
Wet Areas	PTH2.5	PTH2.5	Oil/Fuels	No	If safe to do so
Aggressive Chemicals	PTC2.5	PTC2.5	All liquids	No	If safe to do so
	Acid Neutraliser	GN5	All liquids	No	No
	Alkaline Neutraliser	GNAL5	All liquids	No	No