

# Oil spill response: Should you spray dispersant?

**If you are planning on using dispersants, call an expert first. For free advice 365 days: call your regional dispersant approval agency or your local Global Response Network member**

<p><b>Do you have permission from the government authorities to spray dispersant?</b></p> <p></p>	<p><b>X</b></p>	<p><b>SEEK ADVICE</b></p> <p><b>Ensure you have government approval</b></p>
<p><b>Is the oil black, brown or 'true colour'?</b></p> <p></p>	<p><b>X</b></p>	<p><b>SEEK ADVICE</b></p> <p><b>Oil is too thin</b></p> <p></p> <p><i>Iridescent, rainbow coloured, or silvery</i></p>
<p><b>Is the oil liquid, does it flow?</b></p> <p></p>	<p><b>X</b></p>	<p><b>SEEK ADVICE</b></p> <p><b>Oil is too thick</b></p> <p></p> <p><i>Tar, tar balls or high viscosity oils</i>      <i>Molasses or chocolate-coloured mousse oil</i></p>
<p><b>Is the oil in the sea?</b></p> <p></p>	<p><b>X</b></p>	<p><b>SEEK ADVICE</b></p> <p><b>Only use dispersants in the open water</b></p> <p></p> <p><i>Oil spills on land</i>      <i>Oil spills in rivers and lakes</i></p>
<p><b>Have you considered the distance to shore and that the water depth is not too shallow i.e. less than 10 m water depth?</b></p> <p></p>	<p><b>X</b></p>	<p><b>SEEK ADVICE</b></p> <p><b>In water depths of less than 10 m, seek advice from local regulators and experts</b></p> <p></p> <p><i>Oil spills near the shore, harbours and estuaries</i>      <i>Oil spills in mangroves or near reed beds</i></p>
<p><b>Have you checked that there is no coral reef, water intake or other highly sensitive subsurface feature?</b></p> <p></p>	<p><b>X</b></p>	<p><b>SEEK ADVICE</b></p> <p><b>If sensitive subsurface features are present</b></p> <p></p> <p><i>Oil spills near coral reefs</i>      <i>Oil spills near water intakes</i></p>
<p><b>Do you have the right personal protective equipment and can apply dispersants safely?</b></p> <p></p>	<p><b>X</b></p>	<p><b>SEEK ADVICE</b></p> <p><b>Ensure you have the correct PPE</b></p>
<p><b>Have you checked to see if the dispersant works on the oil spill?</b></p> <p></p>	<p><b>X</b></p>	<p><b>SEEK ADVICE</b></p> <p><b>On how to do a simple test to confirm dispersant effectiveness, before doing a full operational spray run</b></p>
<p><b>Do you have a monitoring plan in place to keep checking if the dispersants are working?</b></p> <p></p>	<p><b>X</b></p>	<p><b>SEEK ADVICE</b></p> <p><b>On how to make a simple monitoring plan</b></p>

- Dispersants may be the best response option if used correctly.
- Follow the industry approved guidance and use 1 part dispersant to 20 parts spilled oil. Use the appropriate application equipment, making sure the dispersants land on the slick as small droplets.
- Watch to check if it's working. Look for a coffee-coloured plume forming and spreading below the sea surface. If you see a milky-coloured plume around the oil spill's edge, or there is no change to its appearance, the dispersants are probably not working.
- Be ready to STOP spraying and use different response tactics at any time.

**IF IN DOUBT, ASK AN EXPERT!**

Call your regional dispersant approval agency, or call your local Global Response Network member. Find your local contact number at [globalresponsenetwork.org/enquiries](http://globalresponsenetwork.org/enquiries)



Global Response Network

365 DAYS