

Pollution prevention for businesses

Install an oil separator

You may need to install an oil separator (interceptor) or other device to remove oil from water draining off hard surfaces, eg roads and car parks, or loading areas.

Typically a separator is needed for any site with a risk of oil contamination, such as:

- car parks larger than 800m² in area or for 50 or more car parking spaces
- smaller car parks discharging to a sensitive environment, such as a marsh that has been designated as a nature reserve
- vehicle maintenance areas
- roads
- refuelling facilities

The type and class of separator needed will depend on the activity and where the discharge is directed to.

Oil separators don't work if there's detergent in the water, eg from car washing. Use an alternative method such as a sealed treatment system, sustainable drainage system or waste removal service if necessary.

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/pollution-prevention-for-businesses>