

NEWS RELEASE
28th January 2010

Drain Rainwater from Oil Catchment Pits

GUERNSEY Water is reminding customers with domestic oil tanks on their properties to make sure that rainwater is drained from the catchment pits on a regular basis.

Catchment pits are a legal requirement for all single skinned oil tanks, and it is vital that suitable steps are taken to ensure that the effective capacity of the pit is not reduced by the accumulation of rainwater, as this could result in oil spillages which are detrimental to the environment.

Director of water services Andrew Redhead said: "Rainwater should be removed from pits by either using a manually operated pump or a siphon tube. We do not recommend using an unmanned electric pump as this could lead to oil being pumped out of the pit and onto the ground."

He added: "Any spillage of oil should be reported immediately to Guernsey Water, as it can quickly get into the water supply. The hydrocarbons in oil are hard for us to remove through the water treatment process and they can impair the quality of water in customer pipes."

Guernsey Water also recommends that a minimum gap of 150mm on both sides and at the rear of the tank, with a 310mm gap at the gauge end be provided to facilitate the removal of rainwater and allow general maintenance of the tank. Drainage outlets, used to drain rainwater from catchment pits, are not permitted.

If any customers are unsure of what to do, they are advised to contact Guernsey Water on 724552.