

# Guidelines for Dampening Dust

The Canterbury Regional Council recognises that the use of oil on roads for dust suppression can create significant environmental impacts in some circumstances, while in others the impact may be negligible if the following guidelines are adhered to.

They are intended to allow for the dampening of dust on roads while preventing significant risk of water contamination, and are intended to cover **small-scale** works such as dust suppression on driveways.

You may require a resource consent to apply used oil for dust suppression depending on the scale and nature of the activity. For more information on resource consent requirements please contact the Customer Services section of this Council (0800 CRC INFO).

**OIL SHOULD NOT BE APPLIED IN ANY SITUATION WHERE THERE IS A POTENTIAL FOR IT TO MOVE INTO WATER.**

## 1. SEPARATION DISTANCES

- (a) spraying of oil should not occur beyond the road edge,
- (b) there should be at least 5 metres of flat, level area between the road and:
  - surface waters (streams, drains, water races, etc.),
  - springs,
  - well heads,
  - dry water channels, or
- (c) a greater distance on slopes.

## 2. PREFERRED SUBSTANCES FOR USE, IN ORDER OF PREFERENCE:

- (a) water,
- (b) vegetable oil,
- (c) new or re-refined light fuel or lubricating oils,
- (d) 'pure' waste lubricating oils i.e., oils that have not been mixed with other substances such as petrol, paint thinners, etc.

Other dust suppressants such as lignin based products are commercially available, and may be more suitable than the above substances dependent on site-specific variables.

## 3. SUBSTANCES WHICH SHOULD NOT BE USED:

- (a) transformer oil because it may contain PCBs,
- (b) used oil contaminated with other substances (e.g., petrol, paint thinners etc.).

## 4. OIL SHOULD BE SPRAYED ONTO ROADS, NOT DRIPPED, TRICKLED, OR Poured.

## 5. SPREADING OF OIL SHOULD BE AS THIN AS POSSIBLE, AND SHOULD AVOID PONDING OR RUNOFF

Any spill of oil should be reported to the Pollution Hotline:  
North of the Rakaia River 03 366 4663  
South of the Rakaia River 03 688 3320

Please note: You may need a resource consent. Please contact Customer Services (0800 CRC INFO) if you have any questions.

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