



## OIL SPONGE: ABSORBENT SPONGE FOR OILS AND HYDROCARBONS

The Decree of the Italian Ministry of the Environment of 23 January 2017 defines which equipment and materials must be present in the mainland deposits, on drilling rigs, on production platforms and on support vessels to intervene in the event of marine pollutions from hydrocarbons.



Among the various equipment, there are also certain quantities of "oil-absorbent material" (for example: 5 m3 for the "storage of materials" and 1 m3 for the "equipment of the support vessels").

obviously the material must be recognized as suitable for use at sea by the Ministry of the Environment and Land and Sea Protection, like **OIL SPONGE** by Airbank.

## OIL SPONGE is an innovative, patented technology for the absorption of oils, hydrocarbons and derivatives.

The product is an oleophilic open-cell polyurethane foam with a hydrophobic effect of over 95%. It can absorb up to 30 times its own weight of any hydrocarbon. **OIL SPONGE** can also be squeezed out and reused up to 200 times. One kilogram of **OIL SPONGE** can absorb a total of up to six metric tonnes of hydrocarbons.

Its performance and reusability means that **OIL SPONGE** allows for an exponential reduction in the quantity of absorbent material required to clean up oil spills, and disposal costs are also drastically reduced (more than 200 times). **OIL SPONGE** offers unaltered performance each time it is reused.

**OIL SPONGE** can be an absorbent product useful for fulfilling the aforementioned decree; the product's effectiveness has been demonstrated in all meteorological conditions. In rough seas, the movement of the waves improves the absorption of the spill. **OIL SPONGE** can be left in the water for days and recovered when the weather conditions improve, thanks to its ability to retain the spilled hydrocarbons.

The estimated saturation time is just a few minutes. This allows areas polluted by oil spills to be cleaned up in a short period. The effectiveness of the product has been demonstrated under real conditions, even for extremely dense oils.