

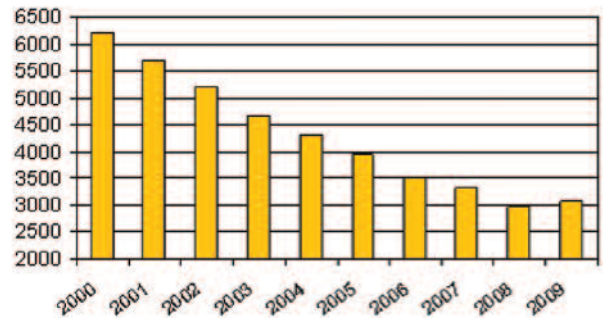
Help stop oil pollution going up

It has been a busy year for oil storage regulations with changes in Scotland earlier this year and impending changes due in Northern Ireland later in the year. (See page 20).

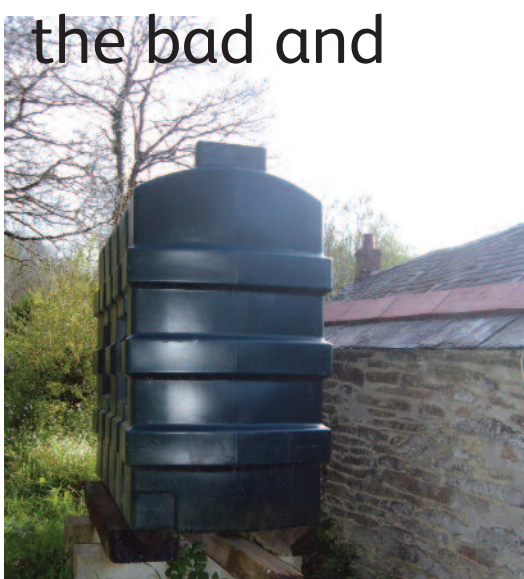
The Environment Agency has just released figures that show the number of oil pollution incidents in England and Wales is up for the first time in 10 years. Whether this rise can be attributed to the state of the economy is unknown, but tighter purse strings will certainly delay some from replacing an old tank or others from forking out for maintenance.

Below are three examples which graphically illustrate how tank installation can vary from the highly professional to the totally incompetent. Distributors can play their part in helping to halt an upward trend for oil pollution incidents by ensuring customers know about safe oil storage and by refusing to deliver to unsafe tanks.

Preliminary Environment Agency data shows that the number of oil pollution incidents in England and Wales increased in 2009. Speaking to Fuel Oil News recently, Liz Hobday, technical officer in pollution prevention waste management, said: "We need Fuel Oil News readers' help to make sure the downward trend from the previous eight years isn't lost. To help customers to look after their oil safely and legally, please advise them to get free copies of PPG2 above ground oil storage and Get to know your oil tank. The publications can be downloaded from www.publications.environment-agency.gov.uk or call us on 08708 506 506."



The Atlas 1300BHA tank installed by A1 which led to the company's award nomination



the bad and

A1 Tanks nominated for top award

North Yorkshire based A1 Tank Services has been nominated for the title of oil tank installer of the year in OFTEC's 2010 awards for excellence. The company specialises in the supply and installation of oil storage tanks to the commercial, industrial and domestic markets throughout North Yorkshire, Teesside, County Durham and Northumberland.

A1 Tanks director, John Marshall, told Fuel Oil News: "Oil tank installers are regularly inspected by OFTEC and it was OFTEC's regional inspector who put us forward for the award. He was impressed with our whole operation – the quality of installation of an Atlas 1300BHA tank, our workmanship and the paper trail behind the contract." The installation was at Middleton Tyas, near Richmond, for SRS Cleaning Equipment - specialists in the hire of industrial sweepers and scrubber driers for warehousing, car parks, industrial and commercial sites.

A1 Tank Services specialises in the supply of bunded tanks. "We are Atlas and Titan Tank accredited installers for the North East of England and in our last trading year we achieved a sales ratio of 94.6% bunded tanks on all our installations and sales," said John. "This, we feel, shows a strong commitment to protecting the environment."

John and his colleagues will now have to wait until October to find out if they have won the title.

winning example to the bad – installer Bob Pratt spotted this installation propped up on an array of unsuitable materials, to the downright ugly in this photograph supplied by Ian Stewart of Tank Services (Scotland) – believe it or not, Ian photographed this tank - not one he had installed - just after the tank had been filled up by a fuel tanker!



These three photographs illustrate how tank installation and maintenance differs. From John Marshall's good and potentially award