MILITARY MAINTENANCE AND OPERATIONS RUN SMOOTHLY WITH SOY BIOBASED PRODUCTS

Absorbent Makes Shop Clean-Up a Breeze

Oil spills are a daily occurrence in the Tank-Automotive and Armaments Command (TACOM) Transportation Support maintenance shop at Fort Leonard Wood, Mo. Until the Spring of 2009, the maintenance team used clay kitty litter to help clean up oil and other spills on the shop floor. Now TACOM Transportation Support relies on Nature's Broom, which contains soy oil and other biobased materials.

Photo courtesy of Fort Leonard Wood

The Tank-Automotive and Armaments Command (TACOM) Transportation Support maintenance shop at Fort Leonard Wood, Mo. relies on Nature's Broom, which contains soy oil and other biobased materials, for shop clean-up.

"The problem with kitty litter is it's a one time use and there is a lot of waste," said Shop Operations Manager at Fort Leonard Wood Robert Kienle.

He decided to try Nature's Broom, which has 97-percent biobased content, after learning about it at a vendor exhibit on base.

After months of product use, Kienle is pleased with the results. "It's pretty simple to use," he said. "You simply apply Nature's Broom to the spill, rub it in with a broom and it absorbs the oil and balls up. After that, you simply sweep it up and dump it all into a sifter so that the unused product can be recycled and used again. It really does cut down on waste."

Fort Knox

The Patton Museum of Cavalry and Armor was established in 1949. Located at U.S. Army Armor Center, Fort Knox, Kentucky, the museum is one of the world's largest and most diverse collections of armored vehicles spanning 1917 to the present and has the finest collection of Patton artifacts in the world.

Fort Knox Museum Restoration specialist, O.B. Edens, spends much of his day surrounded by antique tanks which his team restores before they are displayed in the museum. In addition, the shop maintains a motor pool that includes a number of service vehicles that need regular oil changes.

Until early 2009, Edens had used kitty litter to clean up oil spills in his shop. During an Armor Conference at Fort Knox, Edens learned about Nature's Broom absorbent, which contains

continued on back page

Photos courtesy of Portsmouth Naval Shipyard

Portsmouth Naval Shipyard uses a soy-based paint stripper for submarine renovations. It can be used almost any place on the ship because the health risks are reduced and it's environmentally friendly.

Soy-Based Paint Stripper Reduces Health Risks

When a U.S. Navy submarine comes to Portsmouth Naval Shipyard (PNS) to be renovated and updated, it gets a total overhaul inside and out right down to the smallest detail. "Doors and the like can be taken off the ship and brought into our shops, but many other surfaces cannot, so we need a stripper that we can use safely within confined areas that won't contaminate the sub," says Foreman of Paint Shop 71 Bob Moors.

"We have to use chemical strippers rather than mechanical methods, such as sanding, because of the dust they produce. The internal environment of a sub – especially instrumentation – is extremely sensitive to dust particles that result from sanding and scraping so a chemical stripper is extremely important," Moors says. "In the past we had no choice but to use a harsher methylene chloride product.

It worked well but was classified as a Volatile Hazardous Air Pollutant which means it's bad for the environment. It also required extensive controls (for example: ventilation and respirators) to prevent worker exposure," he explains. "The major advantage of the soy-based stripper is that it can be used almost any place on the ship because the health risks are reduced and it's environmentally friendly."

To read the full profile on this product made by Franmar visit:
http://www.soybiobased.org/portsmouth-naval-shipyard/

Several military installations that use soy biobased products have received White House Closing the Circle Awards for environmental stewardship.

For example:

Photo courtesy of Fort Bragg

Fort Bragg Army Base in N.C. stocks soy-based strippers and stainless steel cleaners in its supply center.

Fort Bragg Army Base in North Carolina is committed to using renewable materials, and proving that they work just as effectively as other products. Fort Bragg stocks soy-based strippers and stainless steel cleaners in its supply center. A soy foam degreaser is being used at the base's motor pool, where maintenance is performed on military vehicles. According to base personnel, the soy foam degreaser, a foaming aerosol, proved to be very effective in removing grease on military vehicles and heavy duty lawnmowers.

Robins Air Force Base in Georgia uses B20 in all diesel equipment such as tugs, which pull aircraft to position, and refuelers, capable of carrying 6,000 pounds of jet fuel to awaiting aircraft. In 2009, Robins purchased 200,514 gallons of biodiesel fuel and the AFB Fueling Depot has a 75,000 gallon biodiesel storage capacity to help support the mandatory requirement for biodiesel fueling of all diesel-powered vehicles. The base continues to incorporate the use of additional biobased products whenever possible, such as hydraulic fluids, engine oil, antifreeze, solvents and cleaners to further expand its' green philosophy.

continued from front page

soy oil and other biobased materials. After trying a sample of the product he decided to make the switch and says "everyone has been very impressed" with it, including the post's environmental supervisor.

Edens especially likes the Nature's Broom absorbent pillow which he is able to put under a tank with a bad oil leak and "it lasts for days. The absorbent will clean up spilled paint; it's fantastic," he added.

For more information about the Patton Museum at Fort Knox, visit: http://www.knox.army.mil/PattonMuseum/.

FACT FILE

For more information Nature's Broom contact Boyd Eifling 662-822-4825, peifling@aol.com or visit: http://www.natures-broom.com/index.html

For more information about Soy Gel Paint Remover, contact Dan Brown with Franmar Chemical, 1-800-538-5069, or franmar@franmar.com visit: http://www.franmar.com/home.html.

America's farms are just beginning to tap their potential as a source for natural, renewable biobased products that offer benefits to worker health, the environment, America's economy and energy security. To learn more about the many biobased products made from soybeans, go to **www.soybiobased.org.** Because of the potential for biobased products to create new markets for soybeans, U.S. soybean farmers have invested millions of dollars to research, test and promote biobased products. Much of this work was done through the United Soybean Board (USB), which is composed of 68 U.S. soybean farmers appointed by the U.S. Secretary of Agriculture to invest soybean checkoff funds. As stipulated in the Soybean Promotion, Research and Consumer Information Act, USDA's Agricultural Marketing Service has oversight responsibilities for the soybean checkoff.

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