



## Technical Articles

### IMBIBER BEADS® Imbibitive Technologies Corporation

(Following information excerpted from Canada ETV Program Fact Sheet)



- **Performance claim**  
Bench-scale testing using xylene and #2 diesel fuel, representative of aromatic and aliphatic hydrocarbons, respectively, have demonstrated that Imbiber Beads' are a true absorbent engineered for organic liquids, and that they will act as a point source control system and a spill immobilization product. For a product to qualify as a true absorbent swelling of the solid material must occur which indicates the integration of the liquid into the solid structure of the sorbent material. Compression of the swollen Imbiber Beads~ to approximately twice their diameter did not cause the beads to release their contents as a liquid. Depending upon the vapour pressure of the liquid absorbed, vapour will be released to varying degrees.
- **Technology description**  
Imbiber Beads' are manufactured by Imbibitive Technologies Corporation (IMTECH Canada). The beads consist of cross-linked alkylstyrene polymers engineered to absorb a broad range of organic chemicals. The beads are solid, spherical particles that are approximately 200-300 microns in diameter. They are unaffected by water, and once contact has been made with a compatible organic liquid, the beads will absorb up to 27 volumes of the organic liquid and swell up to 3 diameters depending upon the liquid and other variables such as temperature. It is the swelling of the Imbiber Beads', without dissolving in excess liquid, along with the containment of the organic liquid within their solid molecular matrix, which makes them unique to the sorbent industry. The beads will not release the liquid as a result of compression, gravitational pull, or even if cut during mechanical retrieval processes.
- **Technology application**  
Imbiber Beads' are commercially available and are sold in bulk and convenient packaging such as-, packets, pillows, blankets and cartridges. The beads are marketed as a proactive approach to point source control and spill immobilization. IMTECH has designed containment systems that incorporate Imbiber Beads' in discs or cartridges. A typical application of the containment unit is to prevent spills from escaping into the environment through drains. Other applications of Imbiber Beads' include installing a cartridge in a water draw-off valve; and using Imbiber Beads' pillows or blankets at fuelling stations, transformers, landfill sites, production areas and maintenance departments, to pickup and contain spills of liquid contaminants.

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