



## SITE REMEDIATION

Hydrocarbons (oils / fuels) are organic and as such are biodegradable. The remediation of oil contaminate soil essentially depends on accelerating the biological degradation of the hydrocarbons by the microbes living in the soil. It follows that the *in situ* biological remediation of contaminated soils requires an environment to be created within the soil where the microbes can live and work most efficiently.

The microbial breakdown of oil generally depends on there being enough organic matter present in the soil to provide food and oxygen for the microbes to multiply and function. While the time of contamination does not affect the procedure it should be noted that, in general the longer the contamination has been present the greater will be the depth of the contamination and the longer the time it will take to remediate. The following procedure may be used as a guide for soil remediation, simply:

- Establish the extent, particularly the depth, of the contamination and the nature of the contaminant (ensuring it is hydrocarbon based).
- Dig up area to contaminated depth and mix Sokerol with the soil, for recent oil spills apply Sokerol at a rate of 1 kg/L spilt oil (or 5kg/m<sup>2</sup>soil). Mixing **Sokerol** into the soil as it:
  - Provides the humus for the microbes to grow in,
  - Provides a non-leaching absorbent to absorb and retain the contaminant until decomposition,
  - Aerates the soil increasing oxygen levels for microbe activity.
- A small amount of super phosphate can be incorporated into the soil before lightly watering.
- Every four days, where possible, the soil will need to be aerated and watered.

Despite the hype by many, in reality, it is a very simple process. Simply capture the hydrocarbon in a non-leaching absorbent and then compost the mixture down to harmless organic matter, just like nature.