

Ultra-SurfCleaner

Customer Case - Industrial Water Decontamination Facility Application

“We were asked to test SurfCleaner to find out what it could handle – and run it until it broke down. It has worked perfectly since 2004 and we have recovered our investment more than 20 times over.”

— Erik, Managing Director of an Industrial Water Decontamination Facility

Please tell us about your company

Our company cleans oily water from industry. We were founded in 1994 and we have nine employees.

What is your focus in your role?

My responsibility is to ensure that the water we clean meets the stipulated environmental requirements.

Why did you start looking at this type of solution?

We were looking at possible technologies for cleaning stormwater at the plant in Skelleftehamn, Sweden, where we treat large amounts of oil and sludge from, for example, carwashes and oil-water separators. The oily water is transported to the plant in trucks which discharge their contents via a coarse filter into a separation tank. An automated SurfCleaner continuously collects and concentrates the free-floating oil phase on the water surface. By keeping the surface free from oil, the degree of separation in the tank is increased and emissions to air are minimized.

Why the final decision to choose SurfCleaner?

This was because the oily sludge we collect from various plants and industrial operations contains a lot of rubbish. Much of the rubbish, such as cable ties, gloves, etc., reaches the sedimentation tank and is suspended in the layer of oil on the surface. Since the collected surface layer never passes any moving parts in the SurfCleaner, the unit is able to collect and separate the oil in the tank, which would not be possible with traditional skimmers and separators.

What were your expectations on the investment in SurfCleaner?

We were going to test the unit to see what it could handle and run it until it broke down. It has worked perfectly since 2004 and we have recovered our investment more than 20 times over.

What is the result so far?

Separation with SurfCleaner produces oil that is practically free from water at a low energy cost, so our productivity has increased. The unit cleans the water down to 3 ppm hydrocarbons which means that we don't need additional sand filters.



Equipment: Ultra-SurfCleaner
Capacity: 8,000 liters (2,113 gal) per hour
Purchased: 2004

What has been the biggest challenge – and how did you deal with it?

Rubbish in the oil became stuck between the float and the ceiling of the SurfCleaner which caused leakage during discharging. But this issue was solved by adding an extra function to the SurfCleaner's control system software which causes the SurfCleaner to “clean itself” prior to discharge.

What advice would you give to other companies with similar needs?

If you need to clean oil, diesel and sludge, SurfCleaner is the machine that does it best, with reliable operation and low maintenance.

What are your plans for the future?

SurfCleaner has functioned very well, but we will upgrade to a new, even more user-friendly control system. This will also enable us to control the equipment via a mobile phone and receive reports generated by the system on the volume of oil collected, etc.