

New Diaper Stops Leaks

by Katherine Brown, co-op student

For unbeatable leak protection, there is a new diaper everyone is talking about – everyone at CFB Valcartier that is. The base has been testing a Vehicle Environment Protective Diaper (VEPD) designed to capture minor engine radiator and transmission leaks on service vehicles like the Mercedes G-Wagon.

DGLEPM's Land Equipment Program Staff (DLEPS 6 – Hazardous Materials and Environment) recognized the need for a practical alternative to troublesome oil drip pans. Currently, plastic or metal pans are placed under stationary vehicles to capture leaks. The pans are often forgotten and driven over, causing spills and becoming waste



The VEPD is hooked directly under the vehicle.

themselves. Similarly, in rainy weather they tend to overflow, spilling their hydrocarbon contents.

The new protective diaper is made of a thin polystyrene chloride (PVC) material. The tarp covers the motor, transmission and both differentials. To catch leaks, the VEPD uses absorption pads. Once full, they are removed, stored in a container and brought to the base where they are properly disposed. New pads are easily inserted.

Installation takes a mere two minutes and does not require any tools. The VEPD is simply hooked underneath the vehicle, at the front and center, and is tightened at the back. It can be left on the vehicle and can even prevent minor spills when the vehicle is moving.

The VEPD's unique design and discreet positioning means that it cannot be easily damaged. Its modest price (approximately \$140) and convenient storage bag make the VEPD a very attractive environmentally friendly item.

While the VEPD was intended specifically for the G-Wagon, it is currently being adapted and tested on other fleet vehicles like the M113 series of armoured vehicles, potentially replacing oil drip pans altogether. Originally designed for use in the bush, tests have shown that the VEPD will remain in place on the road at speeds of up to 120 km/hr. Further testing will hopefully lead to use in theatre.

The VEPD was designed by a Quebec company, Les Ateliers Non-tech Inc. 🇨🇦



The Vehicle Environment Protective Diaper (VEPD) for the Mercedes G-Wagon.