This invention relates generally to oil absorptive devices and more particularly to an absorptive mat capable of absorbing substantial amounts of oil notwithstanding the relatively small area thereof.

Essentially, the primary function of the instant absorptive mat is to obviate the problems attendant with automobile engine oil drippage, e.g., soiling and staining of garage floors, the most serious consequence thereof being the tracking of oil from the garage floor into the home.

Other objects and advantages of the invention will be set forth in part hereinafter and in part will be obvious herefrom, or may be learned by practice of the invention, the same being realised and attained by means of the instrumentalities, construction, arrangements, combinations, and improvements herein shown and described.

The accompanying drawings referred to herein and constituting a part hereof, illustrate one embodiment of the invention, and together with the description, serve to explain the principles of the invention.

FIGURE 1 is a perspective view of the present invention, one end thereof being open and a layer of the side wall being broken away for purposes of illustration;

FIGURE 2 is a side elevation cross-sectional view of the absorptive mat in sealed operative form; and

FIGURE 3 is an illustration showing the device operatively positioned within a garage and beneath the engine area of an automobile.

Consonant with the foregoing, the primary object of the invention is to provide a disposable absorptive mat capable of retaining a substantial volume of oil, any oil absorbed thereby being held beneath the surface thereof and concealed from sight.

Another object of the instant invention resides in the provision of a mat having an absorbant-material receiving region, said region being disposed between an oil-absorbive and an oil-resistant surface.

A further object of the present invention is to provide a device which is compact and conveniently handled for placement, removal, and disposal as required.

A still further object of the present invention is the provision of a mat capable of retaining large volumes of oil relative to its shallow depth, and having the advantageous quality of being incapable of being spilled.

Another object of the invention is to provide an absorptive mat which can be refilled with an oil-absorbive material thus permitting continued use thereof or disposal thereof and replacement with a similar device according to the desire of the user.

Still another object of the present invention is the provision of a device of the instant character, the applications thereof, being myriad apart from the preferred application referred to herein.

Another object of the instant invention is the provision of a new and useful absorptive mat accomplishing the objectives noted above, which absorptive mat is of extremely simple construction, economical of manufacture, and highly reliable in operation.

It will be understood that the foregoing general objectives and the following detailed description as well are exemplary and explanatory but are not restrictive of the invention.

A general understanding of the arrangement and location of the parts of the novel device may be had by reference to FIGURE 1 wherein the disposable absorptive mat designated generally by numeral 1 is shown perspectively, flap 2 being illustrated in the open position thus providing access to internal space 4 for filling thereof with an oil-absorbive substance 6 as shown in FIGURE 2 of the drawings.

Referring now in detail to FIGURE 2, a cross-sectional representation of the device, it will be observed that said disposable oil-absorbive mat is comprised of an envelope having an oil-absorbive upper wall 8 and a lower wall 10, said walls being opposingly disposed in spaced parallel relation, side portions 12 and 14 and end portions 16 and 18, said side and end portions connecting said upper and lower walls as shown. It will be further observed that said side and end portions have a coating 20 thereon, said coating being of an oil-resistant material as for example polyethylene resin, cellulose acetate, carboxymethyl cellulose, methyl cellulose, vinyl alcohol, vinyl chloride-vinylidene chloride copolymer, vinylidene chloride-acrylonitrile resin or any other suitable oil-resistant coating comprising the present art. Application of said oil-resistant material according to the present structure renders a conventional oil-absorbent paper bag, e.g., applicable as an element of the present structure to effectuate the purpose of the present invention. To that end an absorptive mat is provided which will fulfill its absorbing function and entirely protect the supporting floor against soilage due to oil which would otherwise permeate the mat.

Of further import is the function of the oil-absorbive substance 6, which it will be appreciated substantially increases the absorptive capacity of the mat prior to saturation. Attapulgite \((Mg,Al)\text{SiO}_4\cdot(OH)_2\cdot4H_2O\), a clay mineral, is according to the present invention, preferred as the oil-absorbive substance utilized, although it will be understood that other suitable oil-absorbent substances are within the contemplation of the invention. Accordingly, the oil-absorbive substance 6, preferably in granular or powdered form is receivable within the space 4 provided as shown in the drawings, flap 2 being sealed thereafter in any suitable manner.

The preferred manner of employment of the device is shown in FIGURE 3, wherein the mat is shown positioned beneath the engine area of an automobile.

Although the preferred embodiment of the device has been described, it will be understood that within the purview of this invention various changes may be made in the forms, details, proportion and arrangement of parts, the combination thereof and mode of operation, which generally stated consist in a device capable of carrying out the objects set forth, as disclosed and defined in the appended claims.

What is claimed is:

1. A disposable absorptive mat comprised of an envelope having opposing upper and lower walls disposed in spaced parallel relation; side and end portions connecting said walls; a powdered oil-absorbive substance removably filling the space between said opposing walls; one end portion being an openable flap providing access to within said space, said lower wall and said side and end portions being coated with an oil-resistant material, said upper wall being formed of oil-absorbive material.

2. An article as set forth in claim 1, wherein said oil-absorbive substance is attapulgite.

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