

2. Housekeeping

The one factor that probably contributes more to safety than any other issue is the one of 'good housekeeping'. A clean and tidy ship immediately indicates a ship where a good culture exists, where the people on board show professionalism and pride in their place of work and their 'home', and where the ship's management and staff are working together to reduce the risk of accidents and incidents. These photos show the best and the not so good examples as seen by our surveyors.

The engine room is a space where good housekeeping often fails, particularly when the machinery is leaking oil and water, the space is difficult to keep clean and sometimes resources are restricted.

The picture below is from an 18 year old built general cargo ship on a busy trading schedule, with a normal complement of crew. The condition of the engine room is as clean as if new.



Compare this to a ferry of the same age – main engine oily and not being kept clean.



The ship with a dirty engine room indicates that there is a risk of fire, pollution and personal injury. It also indicates that the management does not consider these issues to be a high priority; it indicates that the maintenance is not being done as it should be.

Good housekeeping

This is what a 16-year-old generator should look like. Keep your equipment well maintained so the risk of machinery failure, blackouts or fires are reduced. Poor generator maintenance has been the cause of major incidents including, fire, groundings, collisions, cargo loss claims, personnel injury and even total loss.

