



Massachusetts
Department
of
ENVIRONMENTAL
PROTECTION

f a c t s h e e t

Best Management Practices for Automotive Recyclers Waste Oil, Used Oil Filters, and Waste Oil Space Heaters

Oil poured down drains or onto the ground can work its way into our ground and surface waters and cause serious pollution. Waste oil can contain a variety of contaminants, including lead, magnesium, copper, zinc, chromium, arsenic, chlorides, cadmium, and chlorinated compounds. One gallon of waste oil can foul a million gallons of drinking water.

Waste oil is classified as a hazardous waste in Massachusetts and is regulated under the Massachusetts Hazardous Waste Regulations found at 310 CMR 30.000.

Important points to remember...

- *Do NOT mix* waste oil with gasoline, gas additives, degreasers, antifreeze, or solvents. Mixtures of these materials cannot be legally burned and must be managed as a hazardous waste. Only used engine oil (which may be mixed with other oil-based fluids) may be burned in an oil-fired space heater.
- *Never* put waste oil in a rusty, unlabeled, dented or leaking container or tank.
- *Never* put waste oil in the trash or pour it on the ground or down drains. Immediately clean up spills.
- *Always* keep waste oil containers closed except when filling or removing oil from them.

It is important to manage waste oil from end-of-life vehicles in a way that protects the environment. Options include burning your waste oil in an oil-fired space heater, transporting it to an authorized marketer/recycler (if you are a Very Small Quantity Generator), or hiring a licensed hazardous waste transporter to recycle it or properly dispose of it as a hazardous waste. (If you are a Small Quantity Generator or a Large Quantity Generator, you must hire a licensed transporter).

Know Your Generator Status

Your facility must be registered with MassDEP as a generator of waste oil and obtain a permanent Identification Number. Depending on the quantity you generate each month, you must determine whether you are a Very Small Quantity Generator, Small Quantity Generator, or Large Quantity Generator. Visit the MassDEP web site to find out which category fits your facility, and how to register:

<http://www.mass.gov/eea/agencies/massdep/recycle/hazardous/hwgen.html>

BEST MANAGEMENT PRACTICES

Waste oil management

- Remove waste oil from end-of-life vehicles soon after they arrive at the facility and before the vehicles are stored or crushed. Do this over a concrete pad (or other impervious surface) without cracks, gaps or floor drains. Always use a drip pan.

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- Floor drains that discharge to the ground are regulated as Underground Injection Wells. If these wells will continue to be used, you will need to get a ground water discharge permit and/or register with the Underground Injection Control (UIC) Program with MassDEP (see 310 CMR 27.00 at <http://www.mass.gov/eea/agencies/massdep/water/regulations/310-cmr-27-00-underground-injection-control.html>. If a well is no longer needed, it should be closed (see the link above for proper procedures).
- Store waste oil away from ignition sources in a tank or container that is in good condition.
- If you are recycling or burning the collected oil, the container must be labeled with the words: "REGULATED RECYCLABLE MATERIAL", "USED OIL FUEL", and "TOXIC" and the date on which accumulation began in letters/numbers at least one inch (1") high. If you are not recycling the waste oil, label the container according to hazardous waste requirements. See <http://www.mass.gov/eea/docs/dep/recycle/laws/sqgsum.pdf> for the SQG Hazardous Waste Guidance, June 2004 (page 8).
- To prevent spills, use a funnel when transferring oil to the storage container.]
- Have spill cleanup materials readily available and train staff on their use.
- *Never* mix waste oil with gasoline, antifreeze, solvents, or other such fluids. These mixtures cannot be legally burned in oil-fired space heaters and must be managed as a hazardous waste. Used engine oil may be mixed with other types of oil-based fluids, such as uncontaminated transmission fluid, differential oil, brake fluid (non-chlorinated), power-steering fluid and transaxle fluid, and burned in oil-fired space heaters.
- Keep all waste oil containers and tanks tightly sealed when not in use.
- Report any oil spills of 10 gallons or more into the environment to MassDEP within two hours. Call **1-888-304-1133** (toll free, 24 hours/day) for directions. Spills of less than 10 gallons still require cleanup, but do not need to be reported to MassDEP. Procedures for cleaning up releases of oil and hazardous materials to the environment are established by the Massachusetts Contingency Plan (310 CMR 40.0000), which also establishes specific reportable quantities or concentrations for other hazardous materials. When in doubt, call MassDEP.

Waste Oil Burning in Space Heaters

If you choose to burn waste oil in a space heater, you must submit a one-time *On-Site Class A Recycling Notification Form* to MassDEP. See <http://www.mass.gov/eea/agencies/massdep/recycle/approvals/hazardous-waste-forms.html> for the form and <http://www.mass.gov/eea/docs/dep/recycle/laws/spacehtr.pdf> for the fact sheet, "Safe Handling of Waste Oil for Burning in Space Heaters." Before deciding to burn waste oil in a space heater, contact your municipal fire department to learn about any local permitting and/or regulatory requirements.

Used Oil Filters

Puncture and drain oil filters over a drip rack or drain table for at least 12 hours, immediately after they are removed from vehicles, or use a filter crusher and collect the drained oil.

Fully drained used oil filters are not a hazardous waste and can be sent to a scrap metal recycler with other scrap metal from your facility or managed as solid waste. See MassDEP Policy for the Management of Waste Oil Filters, Policy Number 93-02, <http://www.mass.gov/eea/docs/dep/recycle/laws/hw9302.pdf>

For Additional Information

- Read the “Summary of Requirements for Small Quality Generators of Hazardous Waste”
(<http://www.mass.gov/eea/docs/dep/recycle/laws/sqgsum.pdf>)
- Massachusetts Department of Fire Services: Regulates the storage of combustible or flammable materials at 527 CMR 10.00
(<http://www.mass.gov/eopss/agencies/dfs/dfs2/osfm/fire-prev/527-cmr-index.html>)
- Call the MassDEP Used Oil Hotline at 617-556-1022
- Visit the EPA UIC Program Web pages:
> <http://www.epa.gov/uic>

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