

Used Oil

What is used oil and how is it regulated?

Used oil is defined as any petroleum product refined from crude oil or any synthetic oil that has been used and has been contaminated as a result of that use. Used oil is a free-flowing liquid at standard temperature and pressure and has a flash point greater than 100 degrees (F).

The term “used oil” does not include solvents but may include:

- ✓ vehicle crankcase oils, transmission fluids and power steering fluids;
- ✓ hydraulic, compressor and straight cutting oils;
- ✓ tramp oil and oil drained from evaporators.

Used oil is regulated under the Used Oil Management Standards of Subchapter 8 of the Vermont Hazardous Waste Management Regulations. Do-it-yourselfers who produce used oil are exempt from the Subchapter 8 standards.

What *can* be done with used oil?

- ✓ Send it off-site to be fuel-blended and burned for energy recovery **or** re-refined for reuse as a lubricant.
- ✓ Reuse it to lubricate chains, tools and other machinery. Don't let it drip on the ground.
- ✓ Burn it on-site in used oil space heating equipment (*refer to the “Burning Used Oil Fuel” fact sheet for more information*), **or** give it away or sell it as fuel.
- ✓ Check with the Solid Waste District in your area to see if they have a collection program for small businesses.

What *cannot* be done with used oil?

- ✓ Used oil cannot be disposed of in a Vermont landfill.
- ✓ Used oil cannot be applied to roads for dust control.
- ✓ Used oil cannot be mixed with a hazardous waste, with the exception that used oil may be mixed with waste that is hazardous only because it exhibits the characteristic of ignitability (e.g. ignitable-only mineral spirits), provided the resultant mixture is not ignitable.

How can used oil be stored?

Used oil may be stored in containers that are:

- ✓ in good condition and made of or lined with compatible material;
- ✓ kept closed except when adding or removing used oil;
- ✓ labeled with the words “Used Oil;”
- ✓ located on an impervious surface (like concrete or asphalt); and
- ✓ within a structure that sheds rain and snow.

Used oil may be stored in above-ground tanks that are:

- ✓ installed and operated in accordance with Vermont Department of Labor and Industry standards;
- ✓ labeled with the words “Used Oil;”
- ✓ managed in a manner so as to prevent a release to the environment; and
- ✓ if located out-doors, equipped with secondary containment capable of holding the contents of the tank

A permit is required to store used oil in an underground storage tank (UST). Contact Vermont's UST Program at (802) 828-1138 for assistance.

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Environmental Fact Sheet: Used Oil

How Can Used Oil be Transported?

Used oil generators can self-transport their own used oil without obtaining a transporter permit provided:

- ✓ no more than 55 gallons are transported at any one time;
- ✓ containers meet Department of Transportation standards;
- ✓ used oil is transported in a vehicle owned by the generator or an employee.

To transport more than 55 gallons of used oil at one time, contact the Waste Management & Prevention Division to obtain either a list of permitted hazardous waste transporters, or a hazardous waste transporter permit application.

What else do I need to know?

Notification: Facilities that generate used oil, but don't generate any hazardous waste and don't accept used oil from off-site, are not required to notify. Most facilities that manage used oil do, however, generate some hazardous waste (e.g., oily sorbent or debris) and therefore must notify the Waste Management & Prevention Division of its hazardous waste activity using the **Vermont Waste Handler Site ID Form** (available on-line or from the Division). Facilities that accept used oil from off-site must notify as a used oil collection facility.

Hazardous waste generator status: Facilities that generate both used oil and hazardous waste should *not* count the volume of used oil generated when calculating hazardous waste generator status (based on the amount of hazardous waste generated each month). If a business *chooses* to manage used oil as hazardous waste (i.e., under the VT02 hazardous waste code), the business would need to count that waste toward its generator status.

Hazardous waste manifest: A hazardous waste manifest shipping document *is not required* when transporting used oil. If a business *chooses* to ship used oil using a manifest, or if a hired transporter requires the use of a manifest, the used oil should be identified on the manifest using the VT99 code for non-hazardous waste. Finally, if a business *chooses* to manage used oil as hazardous waste (i.e., under the VT02 hazardous waste code), the business would need to ship the used oil using a manifest.

Federal planning requirements: The U.S. EPA requires a Spill Prevention, Control and Countermeasure (SPCC) plan for any facility that has above-ground petroleum storage capacity exceeding 1,320 gallons (*refer to the "SPCC" fact sheet for more information*).

For more information contact:

Vermont Department of Environmental Conservation:

Waste Management & Prevention Division
1 National Life Drive – Davis 1
Montpelier, VT 05620-3704
802-828-1138

Environmental Assistance Office
1 National Life Drive – Main 2
Montpelier, VT 05620-3804
800-974-9559