

## HAZARDOUS MATERIALS PROGRAM ENVIRONMENTAL FACT SHEET

## Oil Filters

### How are spent oil filters regulated?

Spent oil filters are exempt from regulation as hazardous waste *only if* they are managed according to the requirements in Section 7-203(o) of the Vermont Hazardous Waste Management Regulations (VHWMR). If they are not managed according to these requirements, they must be managed as hazardous waste.

Note: All household-generated wastes, including spent oil filters, are exempt from regulation as hazardous waste under VHWMR section 7-203(a).

### What conditions must be met in order for oil filters to be exempt from regulation as hazardous waste?

In addition to meeting the regulatory requirements, the Vermont Hazardous Materials Program (Program) encourages generators of spent oil filters to follow the best management practices outlined at the end of this fact sheet. The following conditions must be met in order for oil filters to be exempt from regulation as hazardous waste:

- Filters are not terne-plated. Terne is a lead/tin alloy that is typically present in the oil filters used in heavy-duty vehicles. Terne-plated filters can be hazardous due to their lead content.
- Filters are not mixed with hazardous waste (e.g., gasoline, oily absorbents).
- Filters are drained using one of the following methods:
  - Puncturing the filter anti-drain back valve or the filter dome end and “hot draining” (i.e., draining near engine operating temperature);
  - Hot draining and dismantling;
  - Any other equivalent hot draining method that will remove used oil; or
  - Draining and crushing using a mechanical, pneumatic, or hydraulic device *specifically designed* for crushing oil filters.
- All drained oils are collected and managed in accordance with the VHWMR.

### Where can I send spent oil filters that have been managed according to the requirements of the conditional exemption?

While spent oil filters may be disposed of as solid waste, the Program strongly encourages regulated entities to recycle drained oil filter as scrap metal whenever possible (they are typically made of steel). Generators should check with local scrap yards or contact their solid waste district, planning commission, or municipality for guidance on recycling.

### **What are the best management practices related to spent oil filters?**

- Hot drain filters for at least 12 hours. Filters that immediately drip oil when picked up are not considered drained.
- Puncture the dome (top) of the filter, and drain it with the filter threads facing up. This method bypasses the check valves in the filter, ensuring that most of the oil is removed.
- Manage the oil drained from filters with other used oil whenever possible.
- Store drained or crushed filters in a closed, leak proof container and on an impervious surface.
- If you choose to crush filters, use a crushing area with an impervious surface.
- Recycle properly drained or crushed filters with scrap metals.

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***For more information regarding managing spent oil filters, or if you have other hazardous waste management questions, please contact:***

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