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# Used Oil Management

## What is Used Oil?

Used oil includes used crankcase (engine) oil, used liquid and semi-solid gear, chain, and ball bearing lubricants, and used hydraulic fluid. Materials that contain or are contaminated with used oil can also fall under the definition of used oil, such as used oil filters, oily rags and wipers, used absorbents, and oily wastewater.

## Is it Hazardous?

Used oil is not considered hazardous waste unless it is mixed with a hazardous waste such as a chlorinated solvent. If used oil has been mixed with a hazardous waste, see Appendix B for management requirements.

## How Should a Marina Manage the Used Oil it Generates?

Note that used crankcase oil, automatic transmission fluid, power steering fluid, and hydraulic fluid are all considered used oil and can be mixed and managed together.

There are a few options for managing used oil. Two of the most common are collecting it, testing it, and having it hauled away for recycling, or collecting it, testing it, and burning it in on-site space heaters. If the used oil tests positive for hazardous constituents, it must be managed as hazardous waste.

If the used oil does not test positive for hazardous waste, it should be managed as follows:

1. Collect and store used oil in a secure collection tank or drum, separate from other wastes.
2. Dispose of the used oil by hauling or burning it:
  - ◆ Contract with a permitted waste oil transporter to haul oil to a permitted recycling facility

OR

- ◆ Burn the used oil in space heaters for energy recovery, i.e., to heat your shop, providing the heater burns only used oil generated on-site or received from “do-it-yourself” oil changers.

NOTE: Used oil heaters must:

1. Have a maximum design capacity of not more than 0.5 million BTU's per hour; and
2. Vent combustion gases outside the building; and
3. Burn only used oil that you generate or that you have collected from your do-it-yourselfer customers.

### **What are the Requirements for Used Oil Storage in Tanks or Containers?**

- ◆ Label the tank or container “Used Oil” [40 CFR 279.22(c); DHECR.61-107.279.22].
- ◆ Prepare a Spill Prevention, Control, and Countermeasures (SPCC) Plan if you store more than 1,320 gallons of used (or new) oil above-ground (containers of less than 55 gallons are exempt from the total) [40 CFR 112.1]. See Appendix E for more information.

### **What are the Recommended Practices for Used Oil Storage in Tanks or Containers?**

- ◆ Place the tank or container on an impervious base. If the tank or container is outdoors, you must provide for secondary containment equal in volume to the capacity of the storage tank. If the tank or container is indoors, no secondary containment, device, or structure is required.
- ◆ Locate the tank or container in an aboveground area, preferably roofed, which will prevent unauthorized access or vandalism and minimize the possibility of fire or explosion and accidental release of oil to the environment.
- ◆ Lock the tank or container’s fill spout when not in use.
- ◆ Visually inspect the tank or container on a regular basis for leaks or malfunctions. Maintain written inspection records.
- ◆ Instruct all employees who handle used oil on the proper operation and management of the oil storage area. Assign one person the responsibility for monitoring oil storage.
- ◆ Use kitty litter, saw dust, or a commercially available product to absorb oil from minor spills.
- ◆ If providing a collection tank or container for used oil from your customers who do their own engine maintenance, clearly label the tanks or containers to indicate the importance that ONLY used oil be placed in the tank. Remember that you’ll be responsible to pay for disposal of used oil that is contaminated with hazardous waste.
- ◆ Keep records of used oil collection.

### **If a Marina Accepts Used Oil That Boaters Generate, How Should it be Managed?**

Many marinas collect used oil from customers as a client service. Manage this oil in the same way as oil generated by the marina itself.

It may make sense to separate the waste area where you are collecting wastes from boaters from those generated by the marina, since you have more control over the wastes generated by your staff than by your clients. Used oil contaminated with a hazardous substance is much more costly to dispose of than unadulterated used oil. Educate your staff about the importance of keeping used oil from being contaminated with hazardous substances.

If you collect customers’ oil, remind boaters NOT to:

- ◆ Mix used oil with antifreeze or hazardous waste, i.e. waste gasoline.
- ◆ Burn used oil in residential boilers or space heaters.
- ◆ Dump used oil overboard.
- ◆ Pour used oil into sewers or storm drains.
- ◆ Dump used oil on the ground; use it for weed control or to keep dust down.

### **Can Used Oil Be Mixed with Diesel Fuel, as Recommended by the Manufacturers of Some Diesel Engines?**

The manufacturers of certain diesel engines recommend that you add used oil to your diesel fuel. If you have a diesel engine of this type, you may mix your used oil with virgin diesel fuel according to the manufacturer's instructions. However, up until the point that the used oil is actually mixed with the diesel fuel, it must be handled exactly the same as any other used oil.

Please note that this exemption applies only to your used oil and only if it is used in your own diesel engines. You may not add your used oil to diesel fuel that will be used in someone else's diesel engines. You may also not accept used oil from someone else to put into your diesel fuel.

### **How Should Used Oil Absorbent Material Be Disposed?**

Materials that *contain* or are *contaminated with* used oil can also fall under the definition of used oil. The most common of these materials are used oil *absorbent pads, rags and wipers*, and *absorbents* (such as kitty litter, speed-i-dri, and absorbent pads).

Marina staff that produce waste oil absorbent material as a result of maintenance of marina-owned or customer's vessels in the marina's maintenance shop, must collect all used oil absorbent material, test for hazardous constituents and transport either as hazardous waste or used oil, depending on the test results. However, if the absorbents do not have free-draining oil and are not going to be burned for energy recovery, they are no longer subject to regulation as used oil. In this case, these soaked absorbents must have a hazardous waste determination and be disposed of as hazardous waste (see Appendix B) or double-bagged and discarded in trash, as appropriate.

Boaters or marina staff doing work on customers' boats dockside can dispose of oil absorbent materials generated while conducting maintenance by bringing the absorbent to a collection area provided by the marina. Boaters can also take their waste oil absorbents to a household hazardous waste collection facility for disposal. If the absorbent does not have free-draining oil and no such collection area is available, boaters may double-bag it and dispose of it in the regular trash.

### **Are There Any Other Requirements?**

On-board air conditioning systems may also generate used oils that are contaminated with refrigerants (such as freon). This type of used oil must be recycled for its freon content. See section on "Refrigerants" for more information.

Spills of used oil (or any other petroleum liquids, chemicals, or hazardous waste) must immediately be reported via the SCDHEC Emergency Response Section at 1-888-481-0125 or 1-800-452-0311 and to the National Response Center at 1-800-424-8802.

