



RCRA Recycling Used Oil Resource Conservation & Recovery Act

For more information on used oil see *40 CFR Part 279*.

Under RCRA used oil has its own management provisions because it is generated by a wide range of entities, and it is an easily recyclable material. One gallon of used oil provides the same 2.5 quarts of lubricating oil as 42 gallons of crude oil.

To be considered used oil it must:

- be derived from crude oil or synthetic oil, and
- be used as a lubricant, hydraulic fluid, heat transfer fluid, or similar uses, and
- be contaminated by physical or chemical impurities as a result of such use

Used oil handlers are defined as:

- generators whose process produces used oil
- collection operations that accept less than 55 gallons
- transporters who haul greater than 55 gallons
- transfer facilities (loading docks) holding days >1 but < 35
- processors and re-refiners burned for energy recovery or reused
- burn used oil for energy recovery in boilers, furnaces, or incinerators
- marketers that direct shipment to be burned as fuel, or burn for energy recovery

Used oil mixed with hazardous waste is considered a hazardous waste. It can be difficult to determine if the used oil contains hazardous waste:

- Used oil that contains > 1,000 ppm of total halogen is considered hazardous waste, unless you can demonstrate that the used oil does not contain hazardous waste.
- Used oil that is known to have mixed with hazardous waste is hazardous waste
- Used oil that is mixed with a characteristic waste is hazardous if the used oil exhibits that characteristic.
- Used oil mixed with PCBs are subject to Toxic Substance Control Act

Storage of Used Oil

- Used oil must be stored in tanks and containers.
- Storage of used oil in pits, lagoons, or surface impoundments is prohibited.
- Containers must be clearly marked with the words “used oil”.
- Containers must be free of leaks and in good condition.
- Secondary containment required for transfer facilities, processors, and re-refiners.

Recordkeeping/Reporting

- EPA id number is required for all used oil handlers, except generators and collection centers and those who transport own used oil in less than 55 gallons.
- State permit may be needed for generators and collection centers.
- Strict recordkeeping is required for all used oil handlers, except generators, collection centers and those who transport own used oil in less than 55 gallons, and transfer facilities.