

# Hazardous Waste Management

## Household Hazardous Waste - Management of used oil

Information presented in this fact sheet is intended to provide a general understanding of the regulatory requirements governing the management of household-generated used oil. This information is not intended to replace, limit, or expand upon the complete regulatory requirements found in Division 14 of the Alabama Department of Environmental Management Administrative Code.

### Used Oil Facts

- Oil does not wear out - it just gets dirty.
- Crude oil is a non-renewable resource, but used oil is recyclable.
- Re-refining used oil consumes  $\frac{1}{3}$  the energy of refining crude oil.
- It takes 42 gallons of crude oil to manufacture  $2\frac{1}{2}$  quarts of lubricating oil, but only requires 1 gallon of recycled oil to manufacture an equal amount of re-refined lubricating oil.
- Recycling used oil prevents contaminants from getting into the environment, conserves natural resources, is good for the economy, and lessens our dependence on foreign sources of oil.

### Used Oil Hazards

- ▲ Used oil may contain other harmful contaminants such as benzene, cadmium, chromium, lead, and zinc.
- ▲ Oil is toxic to animals and plants.
- ▲ Because it spreads over the surface and doesn't break down quickly, even small amounts of oil can contaminate an entire body of water.

### NEVER:

- ! Mix used oil with other wastes such as gasoline, paint thinner, antifreeze, or pesticides.
- ! Dispose of used oil on the ground; in a creek, river, or lake; in sewers (either sanitary or storm); in septic systems with drain fields; or in the trash.
- ! Dispose of used oil by burning, except in permitted oil burners.
- ! Dispose of undrained oil filters in the trash.

### Preferred Management Practices

#### Used Oil

- ✓ Use re-refined oil in your vehicles.
- ✓ Collect used oil in a clean plastic container with a tightly fitting screw cap (e.g., original container, milk jug).
- ✓ Clean up spills of used oil with absorbents such as kitty litter, vermiculite, sand, or rags.
- ✓ Return used oil to retailers that accept used oil for recycling. Some quick oil change chains also accept household used oil.
- ✓ Take your used oil to a municipal collection center, if available.
- ✓ Place contaminated absorbents in a sealed bag or container and dispose in the trash.

#### Used Oil Filters

- ✓ Since undrained oil filters can contain up to 12 ounces of oil, while they are still hot, puncture the dome end of oil filters, along with the anti-drain back valve (if present), and drain for at least 12 hours; collect the oil that drains out.
- ✓ Place drained oil filters in a sealed bag or container and take them to a municipal collection center, if available.
- ✓ If no recycling program is available, place the bag or container holding the drained filter in the trash.

### Disposal\*\*

Currently, in Alabama, waste generated by a household is exempt from regulation as a hazardous waste. Although Alabama's waste regulations do not prohibit the disposal of used oil from households in a municipal landfill, other options for disposal should be investigated. Alternatives to land disposal include **reuse**, **recycling**, and **household hazardous waste collection programs**. If you must dispose of used oil, absorb the liquid with a non-biodegradable absorbent such as sand or kitty litter prior to placement in a landfill.

### WHERE CAN I GET ADDITIONAL INFORMATION?

American Petroleum Institute: <http://www.recycleoil.org>

Stop Waste: <http://www.stopwaste.org/recycling/residents/household-hazardous-waste/recycling-used-oil>

Earth 911: <http://search.earth911.com/american-petroleum-institute.php>

#### Telephone Resources

ADEM Ombudsman - - - - - 800-533- 2336

Hazardous Waste Compliance Inspectors - - - 334-271-7730

\*\* This information does not apply to wastes generated by business and/or industry