

MAINE

Handling Waste Oil

A Quick Guide for Auto Repair Shops



Taking the precautions listed below will help you avoid waste oil accidents, limit your legal liability, and protect both your workers and the environment.

Storing Waste Oil

- Store waste oil in sturdy, leakproof metal containers or in a tank approved by your local fire department.
- Label the container, tank, and fillpipe for underground tanks in large letters: "Used Oil."
- Keep containers closed unless you are adding or removing waste oil.
- Place containers on a surface made from any nonporous material, such as concrete, that waste oil cannot pass through. The surface should have no cracks or gaps.
- Store waste oil away from drains or ignition sources.

Inspecting Storage Areas

- Check containers and storage areas each week for spills or leaks from lids, seals, and seams.

Preparing for a Spill

- Keep cleanup and containment materials ready for immediate use.
- Write an emergency response plan, post the instructions in an easily visible spot in the shop, and train employees in the procedures.

Recycling or Disposing Waste Oil

- Contract with a licensed transporter to pick up your waste oil for recycling or disposal, (Call the Maine Department of Environmental Protection [ME DEP] at 207-287-2651 for further information including a list of transporters.)

OR

- Burn the waste oil in an approved space heater- in your garage (Contact a heater oil burner

Store each of the following fluids separately. Do NOT mix any of these materials with waste oil.

Gasoline
Antifreeze
Brake and Carburetor Cleaners
Cleaning Solvents
Other Hazardous Wastes

Waste oil includes the following petroleum based oils

Waste Motor Oil
Hydraulic Fluid
Power Steering Fluid
Transmission Fluid
Gear Oil

(Recycling or disposing waste oil cont.)

dealer for more information on proper installation of a space heater.)

Managing Waste Oil Filters

Follow these steps when changing oil filters.

1. Remove the filter from the engine while warm and immediately drain free-flowing oil.
2. Put the drained oil in your waste oil drum or tank.
3. Puncture the filter dome. Place the filter on a rack to drain into a waste oil drum or tank for 12 hours.
OR... Hot drain and crush the filter.

(Managing waste oil filters cont.)

4. Store the used filter in a separate, closed metal container that is labeled "Waste Oil Filters."
5. Ship the used filters to a recycler or discard them as solid waste after 12 hours of draining. (Contact the ME DEP at 207-287-2651 for further information.)

Handling Shop Towels and Absorbents Containing Waste Oil

To avoid managing towels and absorbents as hazardous waste, they must contain only waste oil and the oil cannot be free-flowing or dripping.

- Send shop towels to a permitted industrial laundry.
OR.... Discard dry towels in the trash.
- Handle large amounts of absorbents (spill cleanups) as "special waste." (Contact the Solid Waste Division of the ME DEP at 207-287-2651 for further information.) Small amounts of absorbents may be disposed in the trash
- Store shop towels and absorbents in separate metal containers with tight-fitting lids.
- Label containers "Contaminated Shop Towels Only" and "Oily Waste Absorbents Only", as appropriate.

◆ TIPS FOR REDUCING WASTE OIL SPILLS ON THE JOB

Good housekeeping reduces spills and protects you against liability. Here are several suggestions for limiting waste oil problems in your shop.

- Place drip pans under cars.
- Use different pans for waste oil and for parts covered with solvents.
- Fill drip pans only half-way and then use a funnel to pour the oil into a drum or tank.
- Use dry cleanup methods when you do have spills. You can use (1) reusable absorbent pads, (2) a bristle broom and brush, or (3) mops that absorb only oily liquids. Wring out or pour the waste oil you clean up into a container or tank. Clean any leftover waste oil with a rag. Discard the cleanup debris in a separate container from the used oil. As a last resort, use clay absorbents or sawdust, or alternatives such as corn cobs or peat.
- Build curbs around your waste oil storage area to contain 110% of the volume of the largest waste oil container or tank.

❖ **Improper Management of Waste Oil Is Against the Law**

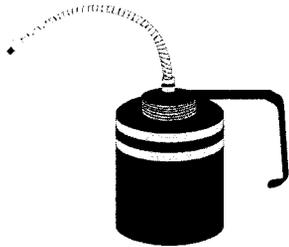
It is illegal to discard waste oil in a dumpster, down a sewer, in the water, or on the ground. In addition, any mixture of waste oil and solvents is considered a hazardous waste, which makes disposal costs extremely high.

❖ **Why Is Waste Oil a Concern?**

Waste oil contains harmful contaminants such as benzene and lead, picked up during the operation of a vehicle. Safe management and disposal of waste oil protects not just drinking water, fish, and land, but also the workers in your shop.

❖ **Why Does It Make Good Business Sense to Reduce Waste Oil Spills?**

Waste oil spills cost money and take time to clean up. Even minor spills can cause major contamination problems you are legally required to clean up any spills and you may also be subject to government fines.



If You Need Help

Keep these telephone numbers handy.

If you have an oil spill, call the nearest Maine Department of Environmental Protection (ME DEP) office.

Augusta	207-287-7800
Bangor	207-941-4570
Portland	207-822-6300
Presque Isle	207-764-0477

(After 5:00 pm on weekdays and on weekends, call 800-482-0777)

If you have questions about state waste oil regulations, contact the ME DEP 207-287-2651

If you want free technical assistance for your shop, contact the ME DEP Small Business Assistance Program 800-789-9802

For any other questions, contact your local fire department, health department or sewer authority. If you are not sure who to call, contact your city or town hall.

Prepared by the Northeast Waste Management Officials' Association, in conjunction with the Maine Department of Environmental Protection. Funds for the project were provided by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Region I.

The information in this brochure is based on regulations of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and the State of Maine. It is not a complete listing of legal requirements. Contact the Maine Department of Environmental Protection for specific details.