

VERMONT

Waste Oil Regulations

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 or tank and the storage area in large letters: “Used Crankcase Oil.”
- Keep containers closed unless you are adding or removing used 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.
- Keep written inspection records.

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. Save bills of lading from your transporter for three years.

OR.....

- Burn the waste oil in an approved space heater in your garage. (Call the Vermont Department of Environmental Conservation [VT DEC] at

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

It's OK to mix any of the following fluids together and handle them as waste oil

Gasoline
Antifreeze
Brake and Carburetor Cleaners
Cleaning Solvents
Other Hazardous Wastes

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

(Recycling or disposing waste oil cont.)

800-974-9559 to obtain further information including a list of transporters or space heater requirements.)

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 at above 60 degrees Fahrenheit for 4 hours.

◆ 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.

(Managing waste oil filters cont.)

OR Hot drain and crush the filter.

4. Store used filters in a separate, closed metal container labeled "Waste Oil Filters."
5. Recycle used filters with a scrap metal dealer or your local Solid Waste District. (Call the VT DEC at **800-974-9559** to get the telephone number of your district.)

Handling Shop Towels and Absorbents Containing Waste Oil

- Dispose of shop towels or absorbents that contain any waste oil as hazardous waste. (Call the VT DEC at **800-974-9559** for a list of hazardous waste transporters.) Exception: Shop towels sent to a permitted commercial laundry are not classified as hazardous waste.
- Store used shop towels and absorbents in separate metal containers with tight-fitting lids.
- Label each container with "Contaminated Shop Towels Only" and "Oil Waste Absorbents," as appropriate.

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

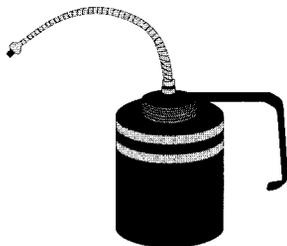
It is illegal to discard waste oil in a dumpster, down a sewer, in the water, or on the ground. In addition, any mixture of waste oil and solvents is considered a hazardous waste, which makes disposal costs extremely high.

◆ **Why Is Waste Oil Regulated?**

Waste oil is regulated because it 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, immediately call the Vermont Emergency Management Division **802-244-8782**
(After 5:00 pm on weekdays and on weekends, call **800-424-8802**)

If you have questions about state waste oil regulations, call the Small Business Compliance Assistance **800-974-9559**

If you want free, confidential technical assistance for your shop, call the Small Business Compliance Assistance **800-974-9559**
OR Retired Engineers and Professionals, c/o Vermont Small Business Development Center **800-464-SBDC**

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

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