

**NEW HAMPSHIRE**

# *Used Oil Regulations*

**A Quick Guide for Auto Repair Shops**



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

### Storing Used Oil

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

### 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 Oil

- Contract with a registered hazardous waste transporter to pick up your used oil for recycling or you may transport up to 110 gallons of your own used oil to an authorized facility. Save the bills of lading from your transporter or from self-transporting for three years.

OR....

- Burn the used oil in an approved space heater in your garage. (Call the New Hampshire Department of Environmental Services [NH DES) at 603-271-2942 for further information including a list of transporters or space heater requirements.)

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

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

Gasoline  
Antifreeze  
Brake and Carburetor Cleaners  
Cleaning Solvents  
Other Hazardous Wastes

Used Motor Oil  
Hydraulic Fluid  
Power Steering Fluid  
Transmission Fluid  
Brake Fluid  
Gear Oil

*(Managing used oil filters cont.)*

OR Discard them to an authorized solid waste facility.

### Handling Shop Wipers Containing Used Oil

- Store wipers in a separate lidded drum or sealed laundry bag. Keep closed and sealed except when adding or removing wipers.
- Label containers 'Contaminated Wipers for Laundering.'
- Send wipers to a permitted industrial laundry OR Launder them on-site in accordance with state, federal and local wastewater discharge requirements.

### Managing Used Oil Filters

Applies to non-term plated filters only.

1. Remove the filter from the engine while warm and immediately drain free-flowing oil.
2. Puncture the filter dome. Invert the filter and drain at above 60 degrees Fahrenheit for a minimum of 12 hours.  
OR Hot drain and crush the filter.
3. Put the drained oil in your used oil drum or tank.
4. Store the drained used filter in a separate, closed metal container that is labeled "Used Oil Filters" and recycle as scrap metal.

### Handling Absorbents Containing Used Oil or Shop Wipers That Are Not Laundered

Determine if the absorbents or shop wipers that are not laundered are hazardous wastes by testing, or by your knowledge of the contaminants in the used oil. (Call the NH DES at 603-271-2942 for additional information.)

## ◆ TEXT FOR REDUCING WASTE OIL SPILLS ON THE JOB

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

- **Place drip pans under cars.**
- **Use different pans** for used oil and for parts covered with solvents.
- **Fill drip pans only half-way** and then use a resealable 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 used oil you clean up into a container or tank. Clean any leftover used oil with a rag. As a last resort, use clay absorbents or sawdust, or alternatives such as corn cobs or peat.
- **Build curbs around your used oil storage area** to contain 110% of the volume of the largest used oil container or tank.
- **Check containers and storage areas each week** for spills or leaks from lids, seals, and seams.

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

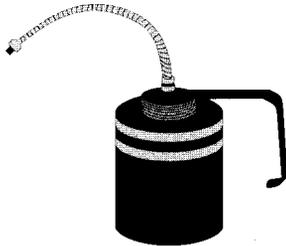
It is illegal to discard used oil in a dumpster, down a sewer, in the water, or on the ground. In addition, any mixture of used oil and solvents is considered a hazardous waste, making your disposal costs extremely high.

◆ **Why Is Used Oil Regulated?**

Used 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 used oil protects not just drinking water, fish, and land, but also the workers in your shop from fire and chemical hazards.

◆ **Why Does It Make Good Business Sense to Reduce Used Oil Spills?**

Used 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 contact the New Hampshire Department of Environmental Services  
**603-271-3636**  
From NH Only **800-346-4009**

If you have questions about state used oil regulations, contact the New Hampshire Department of Environmental Services  
**603-271-2942**

If you want free, confidential technical assistance for your shop, contact the New Hampshire Pollution Prevention Program **800-273-9469**  
Or the Small Business Technical Assistance Program **800-837-0656**

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 New Hampshire Department of Environmental Services. 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 New Hampshire. It is not a complete listing of legal requirements. Contact the New Hampshire Department of Environmental Services for specific details.