



Used Oil and Used Oil Filter Fact Sheet for Automotive Businesses

Used Oil Defined

- Used oil is any oil that has been refined from crude oil or any synthetic oil that has been used and as a result of such use is contaminated by physical or chemical impurities.
- Simply put, used oil is any petroleum-based or synthetic oil that has been used.

Common types of Used Oil

- Vehicle crankcase oils
- Transmission fluids
- Gearbox and differential oils
- Hydraulic fluids

Used Oil Requirements

- Do not mix hazardous waste with used oil
- Store used oil in proper tanks or containers
- Containers should be in good condition with no visible leaks
- Label all tanks, containers, and fill pipes used to transfer used oil to storage tanks with the words “USED OIL” or “WASTE OIL” or “OIL FOR RECYCLING”
- Outdoor containers and aboveground tanks containing used oil must be closed
- If used oil is spilled or released:
 - Stop the release
 - Contain the release
 - Clean up and manage released used oil and other clean up materials
 - Repair or replace the containers or tanks prior to returning to service
- Owner generated and/or household collected oil is burned in on-site heater with less than 0.5 million BTU’s per hour and vented to the ambient air



Most Common Used Oil Violations

- Containers and tanks not properly labeled
- Spills not properly cleaned up

Best Management Practices

- Maintain all records of shipping of used oil
- Close used oil containers
- Use absorbent or rags for oil spills



Properly labeled used
oil containers

Used Oil Filter Management

- Draining used oil from your filters can be performed using one of the following methods:
 - Puncturing the filter anti-drain back valve or the filter dome end and hot-draining;
 - Hot-draining (12 hour minimum) and crushing;
 - Dismantling and hot-draining; or
 - Any other equivalent hot-draining method which will remove used oil.
- Drained filters should be placed in covered dumpsters or containers

If you have questions related to used oil or hazardous waste please call the New Mexico Environment Department’s Hazardous Waste Bureau at 505-476-6000 or toll free at (866) 428-6535.