



Used Oil and Related Wastes

Management guidance for generators

Used oil includes petroleum-based or synthetic-based oils which have been used as lubricants, hydraulic fluids, heat transfer fluids, or for similar uses. Used oil related wastes include any other waste or debris contaminated with used oil. Table 1 lists examples of wastes regulated as used oil in Minnesota.

Table 1: Examples of used oils, related wastes and wastes that are not used oil

Used oil	Used oil related wastes	Wastes that are not used oil
Motor oil	Used oil filters	Fuel oil and other fuels
Transmission fluid	Used floor dry	Crude oil
Hydraulic fluid	Contaminated sawdust	Vegetable oil
Brake fluid	Oily wipes and sorbents	Tallow and animal greases
Compressor oil	Used oil spill debris	Vehicle antifreeze coolant
Refrigerant oil		Fuel tank sludge
Cutting oil		Solvents and oils used as solvent
Quenching oil		Parts washer sludge
Oil-water separator skim		Floor drain sludge
Non-PCB transformer oil		PCB hazardous waste oil
Petroleum-based grease		Mixtures of oil and other wastes

Environmental concerns

Used oil and related wastes that are improperly managed may release toxic contaminants or heavy metals into the environment. Groundwater and drinking water sources are particularly at risk for pollution from improperly managed used oil. The Minnesota Pollution Control Agency (MPCA) regulates the accumulation, transportation, and disposal of used oil. This fact sheet will discuss the management requirements for generators of used oil and related wastes in Minnesota. The county hazardous waste programs of the Minneapolis-St. Paul metropolitan area (Anoka, Carver, Dakota, Hennepin, Ramsey, Scott, Washington, [Metro Counties]) may have requirements that are more stringent. Contact your Metro County for local requirements.

Generating and accepting used oil and related wastes

You do not need to obtain a hazardous waste license from the MPCA to generate used oil and related wastes or to voluntarily accept used oil and related wastes from farmers or households. Though you are not required to, the MPCA recommends that you maintain records of the farmers and households from which you accept used oil and related wastes. Requiring farmers and households to identify themselves and keeping a log lowers your risk of receiving contaminated used oil. If you do receive contaminated used oil, you will need the log to apply for reimbursement from the MPCA for cleanup costs. You cannot charge farmers and households if you want to remain eligible for reimbursement of cleanup costs.

You may accept used oil and related wastes from another business so long as you provide the business with a receipt. Do not burn that used oil until it has been tested. See *'Burning used oil at your site'* on page three. You may charge businesses a reasonable fee to accept their used oil and related wastes.

Storing used oil and related wastes

You may accumulate any amount of used oil and related wastes on your site for an indefinite time as long as you store them properly.

- Accumulate used oil and related wastes only in leak-proof containers or tanks. Containers must be able to fully contain their contents, even if the container is overturned.
- Close the containers at all times except when used oil or related wastes are being added or removed. *Closed* means bungs and caps are fully screwed in or on, open-head containers have lids secured by fully-bolted retaining rings or 'snapped' spring-loaded rings, and bucket snap-lids are fully engaged. If your container has a funnel, it must be screwed into the bung and have a lid that securely latches. Open funnels and lids that shut by gravity alone do not meet these requirements. There are two exceptions:
 - Containers that receive used oil directly from an oil-water separator or oil filter crusher.
 - Containers into which used oil filters are drained (drain filters up to 24 hours).
- Used oil filters may be punctured and crushed on site provided the used oil is recovered. Crushed used oil filters may be recycled as scrap metal; however, you must ensure no used oil is spilled from the crushed filters at your site or in transit. If any used oil is spilled, see the '*Responding to used oil spills*' section on page four of this fact sheet.
- Store containers of used oil and related wastes on a surface reasonably impervious to used oil, such as concrete. Asphalt is generally not considered impervious to used oil. Although there is an exception to this requirement for used oil filter containers, the MPCA recommends that they be stored on the same type of surface as all other used oil and related waste containers.
- Clearly label the containers, aboveground storage tanks (ASTs), and fill pipes for underground storage tanks (USTs) with the words 'Used Oil' or 'Used Oil (type of waste).'
- If storing used oil in tanks, ensure you meet all applicable AST or UST requirements for those tanks.

For more information on AST requirements, see MPCA fact sheet #t-a1-02, [General Requirements for Aboveground Storage Tanks](http://www.pca.state.mn.us/publications/t-a1-02.pdf) at <http://www.pca.state.mn.us/publications/t-a1-02.pdf>.

For more information on UST requirements, see MPCA webpage, [Underground Storage Tank Systems](http://www.pca.state.mn.us/enzq88e) at <http://www.pca.state.mn.us/enzq88e>.

- Ensure that all used oil and related waste storage, both in containers and tanks, meets applicable state and local fire code standards. Contact your local fire marshal for specific requirements.

Reusing used oil at your site or another site

You may reuse your used oil at your site or another site without approval from the MPCA if you:

- Use it as a lubricant, hydraulic fluid, heat transfer fluid, or for a similar use.
- Use it as a fuel in your own diesel vehicle or equipment.
- Use only the amount of used oil reasonable for the task. A reasonable amount of used oil for a task is no more than the same amount of new oil you would use for the same task.
- Do not process or reclaim the used oil beyond normal filtering.
- Store the used oil according to the directions in this fact sheet.

Do not use used oil to suppress dust on roads. For allowed dust suppressants, see MPCA fact sheet #aq1-15, [Dust Control Treatments for Roads and Surfaces](http://www.pca.state.mn.us/publications/aq1-15.pdf) at <http://www.pca.state.mn.us/publications/aq1-15.pdf>.

Used oil assumptions and testing

Used oil is considered *off-specification* until it is tested and shown to meet the levels in Table 2. Used oil that meets these requirements is considered *on-specification*. You need only test most used oil once per site, unless your business operations change.

If you generate used oil from electrical transformers or other electrical equipment, or from natural gas pipeline equipment such as scrubbers or drip legs, assume the used oil contains 50 parts per million (ppm) or more polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs) until you can test it or otherwise document that it contains less than 2 ppm PCBs. Test used oil from electrical and natural gas pipeline equipment each time you drain a piece of equipment. Do not mix the oil from several pieces of equipment and batch test the mixture.

Manage used oil known or assumed to contain 50 ppm or more PCBs as a PCB hazardous waste. For more information regarding PCB hazardous wastes, see MPCA fact sheet #w-hw4-48a, [Identifying and Using PCBs](#), at <http://www.pca.state.mn.us/publications/w-hw4-48a.pdf>.

Table 2: Used oil specifications

Criterion	Specification
Flash point	100° Fahrenheit or higher
Arsenic	5 ppm or less
Cadmium	2 ppm or less
Chromium	10 ppm or less
Lead	100 ppm or less
PCBs	2 ppm or less
Halogens	1000 ppm/4000 ppm* maximum

*Used oil containing more than 1000 ppm total halogens is a fully regulated hazardous waste unless you can document that it does not contain more than 100 ppm of any individual halogen, in which case you may consider it on-specification used oil if it contains less than 4000 ppm total halogens.

Burning used oil at your site or selling it to another site for burning

If you want to burn used oil you generate or receive from other businesses without any conditions, first test it and document that it meets the used oil specifications in Table 2, then register with the MPCA as a *Used Oil Marketer*. Visit the MPCA at <http://www.pca.state.mn.us/publications/w-hw4-34.pdf> to view fact sheet #w-hw4-34, [Used Oil and Related Wastes: Management Guidance for Marketers](#) for more information. You may sell or give tested on-specification used oil to other businesses for burning only after you register as a used oil marketer.

You may burn untested or off-specification used oil for heat only if you meet these conditions:

- Burn only used oil you generated or received from households and farmers. Do not burn used oil you receive from another business without testing it. However, if your site generates 220 pounds of hazardous waste per month or less, making it a Very Small Quantity Generator (VSQG), and mixes eligible hazardous waste solvents into your used oil under the allowance discussed on page four, you may still burn that mixture.
- Burn in a furnace specifically designed to burn used oil and that is compliant with the Minnesota State Fire Code. Check the manufacturer's specifications. Many fuel oil space heaters sold today are designed to burn used oil.
- Burn in a furnace that is rated at less than 500,000 British Thermal Units (BTUs) per hour and that is vented to the outdoors.
- Operate the furnace in compliance with all state and local fire code requirements. Contact your local fire marshal to determine specific requirements.

Most wood-burning stoves and furnaces are not designed to burn used oil or used oil related wastes. Burning used oil or used oil related wastes in a furnace not designed for such materials is not only prohibited, but will likely void the furnace's warranty.

Reminder: Keep records of the amount of used oil you burn on-site under this allowance. You may be required to annually report this amount to the MPCA on your hazardous waste license application.

Transporting or shipping used oil from your site

You may transport your own used oil and related wastes in amounts up to 55 gallons, or any amount of used oil filters to:

- another site you own
- another business that has agreed to accept your used oil and will test it before burning it
- a VSQG Collection Program that has agreed to accept your used oil

Ship used oil to any other destination in any amount with a *Used Oil Transporter* registered with the MPCA. Ensure the transporter, receiving business, or collection program provides you with a receipt for the used oil or related wastes. Do not give your used oil to employees to burn at their home.

You may send your oily rags and sorbents to a commercial laundry without using a used oil transporter, or, if your laundry equipment discharges to a publicly owned treatment works (sanitary sewer), you may also launder them on site for reuse. Do not launder them on site if you discharge to a septic system.

Only launder them on site if you can safely do so. Under certain conditions, oily rags may spontaneously combust during or even after normal laundering. For more information on managing rags and sorbents, see MPCA fact sheet #w-hw4-61, [Managing Towels, Wipes and Sorbents](http://www.pca.state.mn.us/publications/w-hw4-61.pdf), at <http://www.pca.state.mn.us/publications/w-hw4-61.pdf>.

Note: You do not need to establish the thermal value of your used oil-contaminated sorbents, including used floor dry, if you document that they were properly recycled or burned for energy recovery. Do not dispose of used floor dry or similar wastes in your solid waste or on the ground.

Reporting and recordkeeping for used oil and related wastes

If your site is located outside of the seven metropolitan counties of Anoka, Carver, Dakota, Hennepin, Ramsey, Scott, and Washington, do not report your used oil or related wastes on your annual hazardous waste license application. If your site is located within one of the metropolitan counties listed above, contact your county regulator to find out what you should report.

Keep used oil and related waste shipment receipts for at least three years from the shipment date. Keep testing records for at least three years after you burn, sell, or dispose of your used oil.

Responding to used oil spills

All used oil spills must be cleaned up immediately. Manage contaminated cleanup materials as a used oil-related waste. Do not apply used oil-contaminated soil or debris to the land. Immediately report all used oil spills of five gallons or more to the Minnesota Duty Officer at 651-649-5451 or 800-422-0798.

Mixing other wastes with used oil

In general, you are not allowed to mix any other wastes, including waste fuels or paints, with your used oil. Even mixing wastes that are not hazardous wastes, such as contaminated water or used antifreeze, with your used oil may render it difficult to recycle or reuse and significantly increase your disposal cost. There are two exceptions where mixing other wastes with your used oil may be allowed:

Exception #1: You may manage used fuel filters from vehicles or fuel distribution or dispensing systems with your used oil filters.

Exception #2: If your site generates 220 pounds of hazardous waste per month or less, making it a VSQG, you may mix certain petroleum-based waste solvents into your used oil before burning it on site or shipping it off site as used oil. To do so, you must meet certain conditions.

To mix your waste solvent into your used oil, ensure your VSQG site meets all the following conditions:

- Your waste solvent is:
 - **not** gasoline or a gasoline/solvent mixture
 - **not** contaminated with a chlorinated solvent (such as perchloroethylene, trichloroethylene (TCE), or methylene chloride)
 - **not** a paint-related waste that contains a hazardous metal pigment (such as lead, cadmium, or chromium) above the Toxicity Characteristic Leaching Procedure (TCLP) limits
- The final mixture contains a maximum of 10% solvent waste to 90% used oil.
- Only your own employees mix your waste in your containers or tanks. Transport or disposal vendors may not mix your hazardous waste into used oil on their vehicles or at their site.
- Keep records of each mixing event for at least three years from the mixing date. Count the amount of solvent you mix into your used oil towards your hazardous waste generator size and report it to the MPCA or Metro County.

If you follow all of the above conditions, you do not need to test your waste solvent for its flashpoint or for toxic contaminants.

Note: While you may mix non-chlorinated F-listed solvents (such as toluene or methyl ethyl ketone [MEK]) into your used oil under this exception, doing so may make the resulting mixture difficult to recycle or reuse and may significantly increase off-site disposal cost.

More information

Guidance and requirements in this fact sheet were compiled from Minnesota Rules, Chapter 7045, and Minnesota Statute Chapter 115A, and incorporates regulatory interpretation decisions made by the MPCA on October 11, 2007; April 11, 2008; April 13, 2011; January 9, 2013; and October 8, 2014. To review Minnesota Rules, visit the Office of the Revisor of Statutes at <https://www.revisor.mn.gov/pubs>.

Your metropolitan county and the MPCA have staff available to answer waste management questions. For more information, contact your metropolitan county hazardous waste office or your nearest MPCA regional staff. For information about reducing your generation of used oil and related wastes, contact the Minnesota Technical Assistance Program (MnTAP).

Metro County Hazardous Waste Offices

Anoka.....	763-422-7093
Carver	952-361-1800
Dakota.....	952-891-7557
Hennepin	612-348-3777
Ramsey	651-266-1199
Scott.....	952-496-8475
Washington.....	651-430-6655
Websites	http://www.co.[county].mn.us

Minnesota Technical Assistance Program

Toll free.....	1-800-247-0015
Metro.....	612-624-1300
Website.....	http://www.mntap.umn.edu

Small Business Environmental Assistance

Toll free.....	1-800-657-3938
Metro.....	651-282-6143
Website..	http://www.pca.state.mn.us/sbeap/

Minnesota Pollution Control Agency

Toll free (all offices).....	1-800-657-3864
Brainerd.....	218-828-2492
Detroit Lakes	218-847-1519
Duluth.....	218-723-4660
Mankato	507-389-5977
Marshall.....	507-537-7146
Rochester	507-285-7343
St. Paul.....	651-296-6300
Willmar	320-214-3786
Website	http://www.pca.state.mn.us

Minnesota Duty Officer

Toll free	1-800-422-0798
Metro.....	651-649-5451