



Best Management Practices for Used Oil Definitions & Prohibitions

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This document is one in a series of eight that provides guidance to safely manage used oil for those who generate, collect, burn, transport, process, re-refine or market used oil. This series does not replace the regulations found at WAC 173-303-515, but presents an overview of the used oil requirements. It is designed to answer questions regarding how used oil is handled.

Throughout the series you may encounter these terms:

Aggregation point: a site or facility that collects used oil from other sites or facilities all owned by the same used oil generator. Refer to *Best Management Practices for Used Oil #4, Aggregation Points*, publication number 06-04-036.

Collection center: a site or facility that is registered (or permitted) by local government to accept and collect used oil from used oil generators. Refer to *Best Management Practices for Used Oil #3, Collection Centers*, publication number 06-04-035.

Do-it-yourself used oil generator or DIY: an individual who generates used oil at home through maintenance of their personal vehicles.

Used oil generator or generator: a person, by site, whose act or process produces used oil or whose action first causes the used oil to be regulated (as used oil). Refer to *Best Management Practices for Used Oil #2, Generators*, publication number 06-04-034.

Marketer: the first person to claim that the used oil meets the on-specification limits or the person who directs the shipment of off-specification used oil directly to a burner. Refer to *Best Management Practices for Used Oil #8, Fuel Marketers*, publication number 06-04-040.

Off-specification burner: a facility that burns off-specification used oil for energy recovery in an industrial furnace, industrial boiler or a utility boiler. Refer to *Best Management Practices for Used Oil #7, Off-Specification Used Oil Burners*, publication number 06-04-039.

Processing: includes, but is not limited to blending activities, filtration, distillation, chemical or physical separation, and re-refining.

Processor: conducts processing activities to produce a used oil fuel from used oil. Refer to *Best Management Practices for Used Oil #6, Processors and Re-Refiners*, publication number 06-04-038.

Re-refiner: processes used oil to produce “new” oil lube stock. Refer to *Best Management Practices for Used Oil #6, Processors and Re-Refiners*, publication number 06-04-038.

Transporter includes: 1) a person who collects and transports used oil from generators, 2) a generator who transports their used oil (except when the load is under 55 gallons and going to a collection center or aggregation point), and 3) an owner or operator of a used oil transfer facility. Refer to *Best Management Practices for Used Oil #5, Transporters/Transfer Facilities*, publication number 06-04-037.

Used oil: 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. For more information on how used oil is defined, refer to Ecology publication #06-04-00x, *Materials that may or may not be managed as used oil in Washington State* available at <http://www.ecy.wa.gov/biblio/060400x.html>.

On-specification vs. Off-specification Used Oil

Any used oil exceeding the specification levels below is considered off-specification used oil:

Constituent/property	Allowable level
Arsenic	5 parts per million (ppm) max
Cadmium	2 ppm max
Chromium	10 ppm max
Lead	100 ppm max
Flash point*	100 degrees F minimum
Total halogens	4,000 ppm max**

* *It is not recommended for generators to add fuels, like gasoline or kerosene to their used oil.*

***See the discussion on the rebuttable presumption below.*

Rebuttable Presumption

Used oil containing more than 1,000 ppm total halogens is assumed to be mixed with dangerous waste and therefore prohibited from being managed as used oil. However, through the rebuttable presumption process the oil can be tested to show halogens are not from mixing with a dangerous waste. For example, if analysis shows that no single chlorinated contaminant is over 100 ppm the rebuttable presumption is proven. The oil may contain up to 4,000 ppm total halogens and still remain on-specification.

Prohibitions

In Washington State there are some specific used oil prohibitions. The following wastes and used oils are prohibited from being managed as “used oil” under the state’s *Dangerous Waste Regulations*:

- Materials that designate as extremely hazardous waste (EHW).
- Materials that designate as WPCB (previously W001) waste. WPCB is a listed dangerous waste containing 2 ppm or more polychlorinated biphenyls.
- Metal working fluids formulated with chlorinated compounds.
- Ethylene glycol (antifreeze) based fluids.
- Used oil used as dust suppressants.
- Used oil mixed with any solid or dangerous wastes.
- Used oil mixed with small quantity generator waste.

If you need this information in an alternate format, please call the Hazardous Waste and Toxics Reduction Program at 360-407-6700. Persons with hearing loss can call 711 for Washington Relay Service. Persons with a speech disability can call 877-833-6341.