



Best Management Practices for Used Oil Generators

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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 the used oil is handled.

What is Used Oil?

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 (WAC 173-303-040 and 40 CFR 279.10). For more information on how the state defines used oil see Ecology publication #06-04-00x, *Materials that may or may not be managed as used oil in Washington State* (<http://www.ecy.wa.gov/biblio/060400x.html>).

Required Management for Used Oil Generators

- Label containers, tanks and associated pipes "Used Oil."
- Keep containers closed, except when adding or removing used oil.
- Handle containers safely so they do not leak or rupture.
- Do not mix anything into the used oil. If you do, it isn't used oil anymore, and it may even be dangerous waste.
- Be prepared to respond to spills by stopping, containing, and cleaning up the spill and making necessary repairs.
- Store used oil only in tanks or containers and physically inspect them regularly.
- Keep all containers stored inside or under cover.
- Check the total halogen content of the used oil by using test methods such as Chlor-D-Tect. If over 1,000 parts per million (ppm) it is assumed to be mixed with dangerous waste and no longer used oil.
- Know whether your used oil is prohibited from burning as used oil before it leaves your site.
- Know how your used oil will be recycled before it leaves your site.

Recommended Management for Used Oil Generators

- Store used oil in areas with secondary containment.
- If used oil is over 1,000 ppm total halogens contact Ecology for further instructions on management.
- Do not add waste fuels, such as gasoline or kerosene to used oil.

Frequently Asked Questions

Q *Can I accept used oil from do-it-yourself (DIY) generators?*

A Yes, but remember:

- Follow BMPs on previous page.
- Ecology recommends that you keep it separate from your own used oil in case something has been added to the DIY oil that would make it dangerous waste.

Q *I generate used oil and I want to take it somewhere else myself. How do I comply with the regulations?*

- A**
- Follow BMPs on previous page.
 - Take used oil to a used oil collection center or an aggregation point.
 - You may take more than 55 gallons at a time to an approved collection center, as long as the collection center maintains records about the shipment.
 - If you take used oil to any other site, you must comply with the used oil transporter requirements as a transporter.
 - If you want to send your used oil to any other site, but not transport it yourself, you must use a transporter with a RCRA Identification number.
 - If you take the used oil to someone outside of your company who then burns it, you are considered a marketer and must comply with the marketer requirements.

Q *I generate used oil. Can I burn it in a space heater? How do I comply with the regulations?*

A Burning used oil in a space heater is allowed as long as you:

- Follow BMPs on previous page.
- Know the space heater is vented to the outside and has a capacity of no more than 0.5 million British Thermal Units (BTUs) per hour.
- Burn your own used oil, DIY oil¹ or used oil from off-site sources that have been tested and determined to be on-specification used oil prior to arriving on your site.

Q *I generate used oil. Can I take it to someone else who will burn it in a space heater? How do I comply with the regulations?*

A It is allowed if you:

- Follow BMPs on previous page.
- Test the oil and determine it is on-specification used oil.
- Comply with the used oil “marketer” requirements (including recordkeeping).

Q *As a generator of used oil, what records am I required to keep?*

A Although you are not required to keep any records, Ecology recommends that you keep:

- A log of any DIY used oil and on-specification used oil you accept and any used oil collected if your site functions as an aggregation point. As a generator, you may not collect off-specification used oil from off-site sources.
- A log of any test results used to determine on-specification, off-specification, or dangerous waste status of your used oil.
- A log of inspections and repairs conducted on used oil storage containers, tanks, secondary containment areas, and space heaters.

¹ Ecology urges you to be cautious about DIY oil. You do not know if something has been added to the DIY oil that would harm you or your space heater. Ecology recommends DIY used oil be transported to a used oil collection center instead.

Q *As a generator, can I burn used oil containing PCBs as “used oil?”*

A No. This is a specific prohibition. Used oils with 2 ppm or more PCBs must be incinerated under the Federal Toxics Substance Control Act (TSCA). Refer to 40 CFR 761.20(e).

Q *As a generator of used oil, do I need to notify Ecology?*

A No, not as long as you are only a used oil generator. However, if you also function as a used oil marketer, transporter, off-specification burner, or used oil processor or re-refiner you must notify Ecology of that activity.

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.