



Vehicle Repair Used Oil

Used oil is one of the most common wastes produced by vehicle maintenance/repair facilities as well as do-it-yourselfers (DIYs). In fact, approximately 4 billion gallons are generated every year worldwide.

What is Denver P2 Partners?

The Denver P2 Partners Program provides education and recognition for environmental achievement. Our free services are available to any business in the City and County of Denver.

Denver P2 Partners offers:

- Assessments to identify water conservation and energy-efficiency options
- Information and assistance to meet your business needs
- Public recognition for your environmental efforts

Why Participate?

Compliance - Proper management practices help minimize wastes, reduce downtime, and keep you in compliance with regulations.

Cost Savings - Less waste means lower disposal and operating costs. Efficient use of materials, water, and energy saves money.

Public Image - Superior environmental practices affect your image with customers, the community, and regulatory agencies.

Public Recognition!

Denver P2 Partners publicly recognizes certified businesses through free advertising. This includes Internet listings and advertising in the newspaper, magazines, radio, and water bill inserts. Certified businesses receive a framed certificate and window decal.

However, when used oil is mismanaged, it can have disastrous effects on the environment. One gallon of spilled used oil can contaminate 1 million gallons of water, or render a 4-acre area of land unsuitable for planting for decades. Likewise, just one pint of used oil can cause an oil slick the size of a football field on a lake. Improper disposal of used oil causes needless damage to ground and surface waters and wastes a valuable renewable resource, making us more dependent on foreign oil.

What You Need to Know

If used oil contains certain additives, or if it has become contaminated with other solvents, it can fall under hazardous waste rules. You can avoid the burden of managing used oil as a hazardous waste:

- ❖ If you do not contaminate it with other hazardous substances, **and**
- ❖ If you handle and store it properly, and send it to an approved used oil processor by a certified transporter.

Regulations

In the state of Colorado, used oil is not regulated as a hazardous waste if it is recycled or burned as a fuel. This means that used oil that is not mixed or contaminated with hazardous waste can be managed under the used oil regulations.

The Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment (CDPHE) Hazardous Materials and Waste Management Division (HMWMD) administers Colorado's hazardous waste regulations. For more detailed information on the hazardous waste requirements for used oil generators, refer to the document *Management Standards for Used Oil Generators*, which is available through the HMWMD and downloadable at:

www.cdphe.state.co.us/hm/oilgen.pdf.

Summary of Management Standards for Used Oil Generators

- ❖ Tanks, containers and associated piping must be labeled as "Used Oil"
- ❖ Do not mix other substances with used oil
- ❖ Store used oil in non-leaking tanks or containers that are in good condition
- ❖ Prevent releases and spills of used oil when transferring used oil into or out of containers
- ❖ Although not required by environmental regulation, the Denver Fire Department requires that used oil containers be placed in or on secondary containment and that the business have a permit
- ❖ Maintain copies of shipment and disposal records for the used oil that you generate.

Burning Used Oil as Fuel

A used oil space heater is a unit designed specifically to burn used oil for comfort heating purposes. Many businesses including automotive service centers and repair shops operate used oil heaters to supplement the heating of their facilities. CDPHE has specific requirements associated with these space heaters. Detailed information may be obtained by going to: www.cdphe.state.co.us/ap/sbap/sbap_useoilheaters.pdf

Used Oil Spill Prevention

- ❖ Take extra care when transferring used oil into or out of tanks and containers. It is a good idea to use funnels to minimize drips and spills.
- ❖ Keep the containers closed except when adding or removing used oil
- ❖ Make sure tanks or containers are in good condition
- ❖ Place containers in secondary containment

If an oil spill occurs, you must perform the following cleanup steps:

- ❖ Stop the release
- ❖ Contain the released used oil
- ❖ Clean up and properly manage the released used oil and other materials
- ❖ If necessary, repair or replace any leaking used oil storage containers or tanks prior to returning them to service

If you have a spill or release of used oil, you must determine if the release is subject to spill reporting requirements. The guidance document for reporting spills may be obtained by going to:

www.cdphe.state.co.us/wq/WhatsNew/SpillGuidanceDocument.pdf

Release Reporting Numbers

Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment
24 hour spill reporting line

1-877-518-5608

Colorado Department of Labor and Employment
Division of Oil and Public Safety (business hours)

303-318-8547

Best Management Practices (BMPs)

Most regulations tell you what you have to do to be in compliance, but they don't explain how to do it. That's where "best management practices" come into play. BMPs are proven methods that help you get into compliance and stay there. The following BMPs are recommended for used oil storage areas and management procedures.

- ❖ Train your employees on the proper methods for handling used oil
- ❖ Do not contaminate used oil with even small amounts of gasoline, brake cleaner, carburetor cleaner, or other solvents. Even small amounts of solvents turn recyclable oil into a hazardous waste
- ❖ Keep storage containers closed when not actively adding or removing material
- ❖ When storing drums keep an aisle space between drums to allow for inspection for leaks and damage
- ❖ Install secondary containment to prevent the release of used oil to the environment
- ❖ Inspect containers and secondary containment structures on a weekly basis to be certain that they are in good condition
- ❖ Try to prevent spills when dismantling vehicles. If spills do occur, clean up with rags. After wringing out the saturated rag into the used oil drum, you can have the rags laundered.
- ❖ Before contracting a transporter for your used oil, make sure to check for the transporter's state certification.
- ❖ Get receipts for used oil shipments and store them in your records for at least 3 years.

Helpful Resources

See the Denver P2 Partners website for a list of helpful resource sheets:

www.denvergov.org/denverp2partners

Denver Fire Department
720-913-3409

Denver Office of Excise and License 311

Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment
303-692-2000



Denver Pollution Prevention Partners Contact Information:

Janet Burgesser / Program Team Lead
City & County of Denver
Denver Pollution Prevention Partners
201 W Colfax Avenue, Dept 1009
Denver, CO 80202
Phone: 720-865-5457
Fax: 720-865-5534
Email: Janet.Burgesser@denvergov.org

