

USED OIL

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Hello, and welcome to an overview of used oil from the Montana Department of Environmental Quality. My name is Phillip Nyhof. I am a hazardous waste specialist with the Montana DEQ, and I will be your guide through this presentation. The contact information for my office is listed at the end of the presentation. You are welcome to contact our team at any time with questions.

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During this presentation, we will discuss used oil, what it is, who the regulations apply to, and how to properly manage used oil, with a primary focus on used oil generators. We also have resources and contact information for you to find out more about used oil.

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A wide variety of businesses or facilities generate and handle used oil. The Montana Hazardous Waste Act sets forth standards and requirements for used oil generators and handlers to ensure the protection of human health and the environment. The used oil regulations describe proper used oil management. Because used oil is a reusable resource, the regulations also promote used oil recycling.

For complete used oil rules, see the Code of Federal Regulations, Title 40, Part 279, and the Administrative Rules of Montana Chapter 17, Subchapter 14.

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Petroleum-based or synthetic oils that are used and contaminated with physical and chemical impurities are defined as used oil. To determine whether your material meets the definition of used oil, you must determine if it meets the following three criteria:

1. **Origin:** The material must come from either refined crude oil or from synthetic materials including materials derived from coal, shale, or polymer-based starting material.
2. **Use:** The material must be used as a lubricant, hydraulic fluid, heat transfer fluid (coolant), cutting fluid, buoyant, or for some other similar purpose. Materials that have not been used, such as bottoms from a virgin oil tank clean-out or a virgin oil spill, are not considered used oil. Other materials that are not considered used oil include petroleum products used for cleaning (solvents), and other petroleum-derived products such as antifreeze and kerosene.
3. **Contaminants:** The material must be contaminated with either physical or chemical impurities from its use. Examples of contaminants include dirt, metal shavings, solvents, or halogens.

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Used oil includes engine oils from vehicles and equipment, lubricating oil, brake fluids, transmission fluid, hydraulic fluid, insulating oils, metal cutting fluids, industrial process oils, and compressor or refrigerant oils.

Used oil does not include oil products, cleanup materials from oil product spills, animal or vegetable oils, oil sludge from virgin oil storage tanks, antifreeze, kerosene (unless used as a lubricant), and petroleum distillates used as solvents.

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There are six categories that a facility or a person handling used oil can fall under: generators, collection centers/aggregation points, transporter/transfer facilities, processors/re-refiners, off-specification burners, and marketers.

Individuals that generate used oil, known as household do-it-yourselfers, through the maintenance of their own personal vehicles and equipment are not affected by the used oil regulations for generators.

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A used oil generator is a person whose action or process first causes used oil to become subject to regulation. Many different types of businesses or facilities generate used oil, including manufacturing companies, machine shops, metal working industries, auto service stations, quick lube shops, and others.

There are additional regulations for other used oil activities such as transportation, collection centers, re-refining or reprocessing, burning, and marketing.

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As a used oil generator, you must adhere to the following requirements.

- Label containers or tanks of used oil with the words “Used Oil”.
- Store used oil in containers or tanks that are in good condition (not rusting, leaking, etc.).
- If there is a leak of used oil: stop the leak, contain it, clean it up, and properly manage the cleanup materials.
- Use a transporter with an EPA ID number when shipping used oil off site.
- Do not mix your used oil with other wastes such as mineral spirits, brake cleaner fluid, or washer solvents, unless you are sure that you are complying with the appropriate regulations.

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As a used oil generator, you have several recycling and management options.

- Contact a used oil recycler.
- Take your used oil to a collection center.
- Take your used oil to an aggregation point.
- Burn your used oil in a space heater that meets the specific guidelines in the used oil rules.

Do not dispose of used oil on the ground, down the sewer, in a septic tank, or down a floor drain. Do not put liquid used oil in the trash dumpster with other solid waste. Do not mix used oil with other wastes (solvents, for example) that might cause the whole mixture to become a hazardous waste.

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Additional information is available online regarding used oil management. A great place to start is the Montana DEQ website at deq.mt.gov where Used Oil Regulations are summarized alongside links to additional guidance.

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Montana DEQ can be found on Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, and YouTube. If you have more questions about used oil, you are welcome to reach out to the hazardous waste program at any time by phone or email. We are always happy to answer your questions. Thank you for joining me for this presentation.