



What's New with Used Oil



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GREEN WORKS FOR PENNSYLVANIA

HELP MEET USED OIL DEMAND

Providing a used oil collection service to do-it-yourself (DIY) oil changers results in:

- Preserving a limited natural resource by furnishing more oil for the recycling stream
- Eliminating potential for spills and subsequent land and water pollution.
- Saving on-premise heating costs.
- Gaining regular customers.

Environmentalists and government agencies specifying the use of recycled oil have increased the demand for used oil. In accepting used oil from DIY oil changers, Pennsylvania's registered used oil collection sites (UOCS) are helping to meet this demand and, at the same time, providing a great service to the environment by preventing improper disposal that can contaminate land and water supplies.

Some UOCS save on costs to heat their premises by using oil generated by DIYers in used oil furnaces or boilers.

Accepting used oil from DIYers is good public relations. In the short-term, DIYers are more likely to patronize facilities that accept their used oil. In the long-term, as many DIYers move up the corporate ladder, purchase new vehicles and have less free time to maintain them, they tend to look to service providers. Goodwill extended today can pay off in tomorrow's loyal, regular lube customers.

MASCOT GOES TO AUTO SHOWS

Bill LaCour, Pennsylvania's Used Oil Recovery Coordinator, attended automobile shows this year in Harrisburg, Philadelphia and Pittsburgh to get out the message of the importance of preventing used oil from being dumped on the ground or entering Commonwealth waters, and of recycling used tires and oil filters. His

constant companion on the auto show circuit was Oliver "Oily" Useitagain, the used oil recovery mascot. Auto show handouts included funnels made from post-consumer recycled plastic.

Automotive receipt organizers, bearing environmentally appropriate suggestions for used motor oil recyclers, were distributed at the Pittsburgh show. The organizers are handy for storing automotive service receipts neatly in the glove box of most motor vehicles. While quantities last, samples are available to any UOCS that sends a request to the Used Oil Information Center.

RECYCLABILITY OF USED FILTERS STRESSED

Many newsletter readers already know that used oil filters are very recyclable. What you may not know, however, is that most of the 15 million-plus¹ light-duty used oil filters generated each year in Pennsylvania are thrown into trash cans. Some of these filters are discarded without being properly drained, in violation of the recycling exemption under the state and federal Resource Conservation and Recovery Act requirements.

We encourage all used oil collection site operators to recycle used oil filters, following the regulatory requirements for 12-hour hot draining. If DIYers ask you to recycle their changed oil filters, please accept and incorporate them with the filters you generate as a favor to the environment.

How much of the world's oil and natural gas supplies are left? Some sources say we have 25 years left, at the current rate of consumption. Some say we have an unending supply of petroleum. Others caution that we are overusing our supplies now. In other words, we are not sure. One thing of which we are sure is that your help in recycling used oil generated by DIYers is the step that helps the most in preventing this oil from being spilled on the ground, being dumped into the waters of the

Commonwealth and from spoiling bathing and drinkable waters. Thank you for all that you have done up until now and for being there in the future when you will be greatly needed.

¹Filter Manufacturers Council, 1994

**WASTE OIL REGULATIONS
GIVEN OK BY EQB**

The Environmental Quality Board passed the waste oil amendments as final rule at its March 20 meeting. The EQB ruling was then sent to the Independent Regulatory Review Commission for review and comment, as required under the provisions of the Solid Waste Management Act, 35 PS, and the Regulatory Review Act, 71 PS §745.5(a). The IRRC also approved the final rule. *The Pennsylvania Bulletin* will carry the regulations for statewide dissemination.


The regulatory changes include the requirement to use “waste oil” in place of “used oil” but overall the new regulations will have minimal impact on the used oil collection program. This will be covered in the next newsletter.

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This fact sheet and related environmental information are available electronically via Internet. For more information, visit us through the PA Powerport at <http://www.state.pa.us> or visit DEP directly at <http://www.dep.state.pa.us> (choose directLINK "oil recycling").



www.GreenWorks.tv - A web space dedicated to helping you learn how to protect and improve the environment. The site features the largest collection of environmental videos available on the Internet and is produced by the nonprofit Environmental Fund for Pennsylvania, with financial support from DEP, 877-PA-GREEN.

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