



Waste Motor Oil

Why Recycle Waste Motor Oil? Waste Motor Oil presents a significant threat to the environment if not disposed of properly. While not considered a hazardous waste in New Mexico, **used oil is banned from landfills and other solid waste disposal systems.** Nearly 400,000 gallons of used oil is *dumped* by citizens each year in the US, making used oil the largest single source of water pollution, the proper collection and recycling of this product is imperative. The US EPA estimates that one gallon of spilled oil can contaminate up to 250,000 gallons of drinking water!

What is Waste Motor Oil Used For? Waste Motor Oil is commonly re-refined into heating oil for use in homes and industry. Waste Motor Oil can also be re-refined for reuse as motor oil. Because Waste Motor Oil is recycled to displace virgin oil, its value is closely tied to global oil trading markets. Waste Motor Oil can also be used on site as heating oil. Several waste oil heaters are available in NM (see next page) and are simple to use and relatively inexpensive to install. These applications are ideal for vehicle repair shops where waste oil is generated but are also in use at solid waste facilities where waste motor oil is collected from the public.

How Should Waste Motor Oil be Collected? Waste Motor Oil is commonly collected in large storage tanks. These tanks can then be serviced by a number of waste motor oil processors (see side bar) for recycling. All processors require that the tanks be limited to accept motor oil only, and will refuse to collect from tanks where there is antifreeze, solvents, brake fluid or other fluids mixed with the motor oil. Tanks must be secured with a minimum of 110% containment. Containment is commonly achieved through the use of double wall tanks which are self contained for easy siting and use. These tanks can be purchased *off the shelf* or custom built.

Regulatory Issues: The collection, storage and handling of waste is regulated by the US EPA and the NMED Hazardous Waste Bureau. It is critical to review the relevant regulations prior to commencing collection activities.

Other Resources:

American Petroleum Institute, www.recycleoil.org

US EPA, www.epa.gov/osw/conserve/materials/usedoil/usedoil.htm

Used Oil Management Association, www.uoma.com/index.html

NMED Hazardous Waste Bureau, www.nmenv.state.nm.us/hwb/stareg.html



RECYCLE
USED OIL

New Mexico Waste Motor Oil Haulers/Processors

Mesa Oil
800-873-3645

Safety-Kleen
505-884-2277

Southwest Oil Recyclers
505-821-2863

Thermo Fluids
800-350-7565



Waste Motor Oil

Waste Oil Heater Manufacturers *Source: Used Oil Management Association*



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