



STATE OF CONNECTICUT
DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION
BUREAU OF MATERIALS MANAGEMENT AND
COMPLIANCE ASSURANCE
ENGINEERING & ENFORCEMENT DIVISION

79 ELM STREET, HARTFORD CT 06106-5127
TEL. (860) 424-3023 TOLL-FREE 1-888-424-4193

www.ct.gov/deep

Used Oil Fact Sheet # 9

MANAGEMENT OF HOUSEHOLD DO-IT-YOURSELFER USED OIL

What Is Household Do-It-Yourselfer Used Oil?

Household do-it-yourselfer used oil (or “DIY oil”) is oil that is generated by individuals in households, from activities such as the maintenance of personal vehicles. DIY oil includes crank case oil and other types of oils, such as transmission fluid, power steering fluid, hydraulic fluid, and brake fluid. These oils may come from any type of motorized vehicles, including cars, vans, trucks, motorcycles, off-road vehicles, lawn care vehicles, and snow blowers.

DIY oil does **NOT** include other vehicle fluids, such as antifreeze, windshield washer fluid, or fuels (including gasoline and diesel fuel). It also does not include used oil that is generated through the maintenance of commercial vehicles. Owners of commercial vehicles are subject to special requirements for the management of their used oil.

Why Is It Important to Properly Dispose of DIY Oil?

Just one quart of DIY oil can make millions of gallons of drinking water unfit to drink. Since over a million gallons of DIY oil are generated in Connecticut each year, it is easy to see just how much of a threat to our drinking water supplies improperly disposed of DIY oil can be. DIY oil that is improperly disposed of can also kill trees and other plants, harm fish and wildlife, and pollute rivers, streams, and wetlands.

How May DIY Oil Be Properly Disposed of?

Connecticut law requires every town in the State to provide its residents with a way to properly dispose of their DIY oil. Most towns meet this requirement by providing a DIY oil tank at the town transfer station or recycling facility for their residents to use. In addition to collecting DIY oil, many towns also collect used oil filters and antifreeze. Many towns also have separate collections for household hazardous waste. If you would like to find out about the services that are available in your area, call your town or city hall for details.

While municipal DIY oil collection centers offer the best alternative for disposing of DIY oil, some service stations or auto repair centers may also be willing to accept it. Regardless of which of the above is used, generators of DIY oil should be sure that they:

- Do NOT mix DIY oil with antifreeze, other vehicle fluids, or hazardous waste.
- Do NOT burn DIY oil in residential boilers or space heaters.
- Do NOT pour DIY oil into sewers or storm drains.
- Do NOT dump DIY oil on the ground, use it for weed control, or to keep dust down.

The above activities can cause pollution of air, water, or soil, and may constitute serious violations of state or federal laws.

What Rules Apply to DIY Oil Collection Centers?

As long as they properly dispose of their used oil, generators of DIY oil are not subject to DEP's used oil regulations. However, this exemption ends once a DIY oil is taken to a DIY oil collection center. As a result, the DIY collection center is fully subject to DEP's used oil rules. This means that the collection center is responsible for properly testing the oil, and documenting that it has not been mixed with hazardous waste. The collection center must also ensure that the oil is sent to a permitted used oil recycling facility, and that it is shipped via transporters that are permitted by DEP to haul used oil. The collection center must also ensure that the used oil is properly stored in containers or tanks. In addition, collection centers are also subject to the requirements of DEP's *General Permit to Construct and Operate Certain Recycling Facilities*. This general permit has a number of requirements that collection centers must follow in addition to DEP's used oil regulations.

May DIY Oil Collection Centers Take in Other Types of Used Oil?

DIY collection centers may take in used oil from other sources (such as a town garage or other municipal operations), but doing this may result in their having to comply with additional used oil requirements.

How May I Get More Information on Used Oil?

DEP has prepared a detailed guidance document and numerous other fact sheets on used oil. Copies of these documents may be obtained by visiting the DEP website (www.ct.gov/dep), or by contacting DEP using the address/telephone numbers listed at the beginning of this fact sheet. For information about DEP's recycling general permit, you may call DEP at (860) 424-3023.

The Department of Environmental Protection is an equal opportunity/affirmative action employer, and its programs and services are offered without regard to race, color, religion, national origin, age, sex, or disability. In conformance with the Americans with Disabilities Act, the DEP makes every effort to provide equally effective services for persons with disabilities. Individuals with disabilities needing auxiliary aids or services for effective communication should call (860) 424-3035 or TDD (860) 424-3333.