



# National Park Service Commercial Services Program Used Oil Management



## What is Used Oil?

Used oil is any conventional or synthetic oil that is contaminated by physical or chemical impurities. It often contains toxic metals such as lead, cadmium, and chromium that would otherwise cause the used oil to meet the definition of hazardous waste. The intent of used oil regulations is to encourage the collection and recycling of used oil by reducing the associated regulatory requirements of hazardous waste disposal regulations.

## Transportation

- Used oil must be transported only by used oil transporters that have an EPA identification number, unless the transporter meets the following criteria:
  - Used oil generated or collected from household do-it-yourself used oil generators is transported to a used oil collection center in a vehicle owned by the concessioner
  - No more than 55 gallons of used oil is transported at any one time
  - Used oil is taken to either an aggregation point owned and/or operated by the NPS, or a used oil collection center registered, licensed, permitted, or recognized by a state/county/municipal government to manage used oil
- Facilities must maintain used oil generation and transportation records.

## Mixtures of Used Oil and Hazardous Waste

Mixtures of used oil and hazardous waste must be managed as hazardous waste.



## Releases

Procedures for used oil spill response must be laid out in the emergency response plan / spill response plan.

## Used Oil Filter Management

Terne is an alloy of tin and lead that can render some filters hazardous due to the content of lead used in the plating process, so terne plated oil filters must be recycled or disposed as hazardous waste.

The EPA defines “hot draining” as draining the oil filter near engine-operating temperature and above room temperature. Non-terne used oil filters that have been drained using the criteria and “processed,” i.e., crushed, can often be recycled as an excluded scrap metal.

Requirements include the below.

- Non-terne plated used oil filters must be kept separate from listed hazardous wastes.
- Used oil filters must be gravity hot-drained by one of the following methods:
  - Puncturing the filter’s anti-drain back valve or dome end and hot-draining
  - Hot-draining and crushing the filter
  - Dismantling and hot-draining the filter
  - Any equivalent hot-draining method that will remove the used oil
- Terne-plated used oil filters must be recycled or disposed of as a hazardous waste.
- Non-terne plated used oil filters should be recycled.

## Storage and Handling

- Must be stored in approved tanks or containers that are:
  - Closed when not being added to
  - Leak-free
  - In good condition with no rusting, structural defects, or deterioration
  - Clearly labeled or marked “Used Oil”
- For containers of 55 gallons or more, secondary containment is required. For smaller containers, secondary containment is a best management practice.
- Have an established area to accumulate and store used oil.



*Please note, this fact sheet does not cover all requirements and situations related to used oil. In addition to checking federal regulations, be sure to check your state and local regulations. For any operational questions or emergency situations, please contact your park concession specialist. For more information pertaining to compliance with used oil requirements, please email [cs\\_envaudits@nps.gov](mailto:cs_envaudits@nps.gov) or contact the applicable regulatory authority.*