

**Waste Oil and Filter Disposal**

Oil can be used in a variety of activities at Penn State. Once oil has been used for its intended purpose and it is no longer needed or useful it must be managed and disposed of properly. Oil that is required to be disposed of, is known as waste oil in the state of Pennsylvania. Depending on how the oil has been used, it will be classified as hazardous or non-hazardous waste. Non-hazardous waste oil can be recycled for beneficial use, which supports Penn State’s sustainability initiatives. Therefore, it is important to keep hazardous substances out of oil whenever possible. All oil, whether hazardous or non-hazardous, must be disposed/recycled through EHS.

Waste oil may contain hazardous impurities such as heavy metals and must be protected from entering the environment. Recycling oil keeps it out of the landfills and thus protects the environment from potentially hazardous waste.

**Laboratory/Research Generated Waste Oil:**

Laboratory and research activities may generate waste oil. The oil should not be co-mingled with other waste streams. The oil should be stored, managed, and disposed of through the EHS Chemical and Hazardous Waste Management Program. Label the waste oil container with any known contaminants. If you are generating a large amount of oil from a specific project, contact EHS in advance.

**Maintenance Generated Waste Oil:**

Waste oil may be generated during various maintenance activities including the servicing of motor vehicles, farm/landscape equipment, aircraft, emergency generators, elevators, transformers, building equipment, etc. In order for this waste oil to be recycled, the following must be adhered to:

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| **Allowable** | **Prohibited** |
| * Motor or hydraulic oil | * Gasoline |
| * Diesel fuel | * Chlorinated solvents such as brake fluid |
| * Fuel oil | * PCB oil |
| * Biodegradable motor or hydraulic oil | * Parts washer solvents |
| * Elevator oil | * Water-based coolants |
| * Transformer oil (confirmed non-PCB) | * Glycol (antifreeze) |
|  | * Cooking oils |
|  | * Refrigerant oil |
|  | * Gas/oil mixtures |
|  | * Avgas |
|  | * Jet Fuel |

If any of the prohibited materials have been added to the waste oil it can no longer be recycled. Contact EHS for alternative proper disposal procedures. If you add prohibited materials into the waste oil it will contaminate the entire tanker load of oil. The unit responsible for the contamination may be responsible for the extra cost.

*Waste Oil Storage Requirements:*

* Store waste oil in a tank, drum, or other container in good condition (not leaking). The container may be either plastic or metal.
* All containers must have secondary containment.
* Label the container "Waste Oil” or “Waste Oil Only".
* The container must be kept closed except when in use. Do not allow a filter to drain into an open container for more than a few minutes. Some funnels are equipped with lids that allow for a filter to be placed inside it – these are acceptable as long as the lid is kept closed and secured.
* Maintain a written log to document all amounts and types of oil added to the container.
* Limit access to the container so that only allowable materials (see list above) are added to the waste oil container.
* Ensure there is sufficient capacity remaining in the container before adding oil.

*Waste Oil Disposal:*

Only EHS-approved vendors can be used for waste oil disposal. Waste oil cannot be given to facilities that use it as fuel in small on-site waste oil burners. When the waste oil container is approaching capacity, contact EHS to arrange for pick-up.

**Oil Filters:**

Oil filters when removed from equipment, can contain as much as 12-16 ounces of oil, therefore the oil should be removed prior to disposal. There are two types of oil filters that must be disposed of through EHS as hazardous waste – terne-plated (lead-containing) filters and refrigerant oil filters. All others may be recycled. Contact EHS about recycling options.

**Used Fuel Filters:**

Used fuel filters may exhibit the characteristic of ignitability or toxicity. All used fuel filters should be disposed of through the EHS Chemical and Hazardous Waste Management Program.

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