

Disposal of Motor Oil

Every month, across the United States, more than 16 million gallons of motor oil is disposed of improperly. By way of comparison, that is more than was lost by the Exxon Valdez supertanker spill off the coast of Alaska.

Every vehicle generates at least 2.5 gallons of used oil per year. Statistics show that about one-half of vehicle owners maintain their vehicles and that no more than 15 percent will recycle their oil. Conservatively, that exceeds five million gallons of used oil per year placed into the environment in landfills, sewers, waterways, and vacant lots.

What Should I Do With Used Oil?

- Never dispose of used motor oil on the ground, in a ditch, creek, river, or lake, in a storm sewer, or in the garbage.
- DO NOT mix used motor oil with anything else, such as gasoline, solvents, antifreeze, pesticides, etc.
- Transfer your used motor oil to a clean leak-proof plastic container with a screw-on top (milk jug, empty oil container, etc.) and put the top on firmly to prevent leaking and spilling.
- Contact your county health department, environmental waste department, local gas station, garage or oil change station, to ask where you can leave used oil. Properly dispose of your used oil quickly. If you leave it sit around, you run the risk of the container either leaking or being punctured.
- Prior to discarding your used oil filter, punch an air hole in the dome end of the filter. Also, puncture the anti-drain back valve (if present) located at the flat end of the filter. Allow the oil to drain from the filter for several hours. Combine this oil with the rest of your used motor oil for recycling. The location that accepts your oil will likely also accept your oil filter.

It is important to recycle all used oil. Finding the proper collection point for used oil is the first step. Everyone is challenged to make our environment safe and free of the contaminants found in used motor oil.

Check for the closest used oil collection point in your neighborhood.

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