



# Best Management Practices for Used Oil Processors and Re-Refiners

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This document is one in a series of eight that provides guidance to safely manage used oil for those who generate, collect, burn, transport, process, re-refine or market used oil. This series does not replace the regulations found at WAC 173-303-515, but presents an overview of the used oil requirements. It is designed to answer questions regarding how the used oil is handled.

## What is Used Oil?

Used oil is any oil that has been refined from crude oil, or any synthetic oil, that has been used and as a result of such use is contaminated by physical or chemical impurities (WAC 173-303-040 and 40 CFR 279.10). For more information on how the state defines used oil see Ecology publication #06-04-00x, *Materials that may or may not be managed as used oil in Washington State* (<http://www.ecy.wa.gov/biblio/060400x.html>).

## What is Used Oil Processing?

Processing includes, but is not limited to blending activities, filtration, distillation, chemical or physical separation and re-refining. Used oil processors conduct processing activities to produce a used oil fuel from used oil while re-refiners process used oil to produce “new” oil lube stock.

## General Facility Requirements for Used Oil Processors and Re-refiners (CFR 279, Subpart F)

- Get a RCRA Identification number from Ecology.
- Maintain and operate the facility to avoid the possibility of a fire, explosion, or spill of used oil.
- Equip the facility with and allow proper access to internal communications, alarm systems, fire control, spill control and decontamination equipment. Test and maintain this equipment properly.
- Allow proper aisle space to respond to incidents.
- Make prior arrangements with local authorities for potential need of their services (i.e., police and fire departments, emergency response teams, etc.).
- Design a contingency plan to be used to minimize hazards to human health and the environment in response to an incident.
- Have an emergency coordinator who has the authority to commit resources needed to carry out the contingency plan, who knows the content of the plan and what to do in case of an incident.
- Prior to accepting used oil shipments, check the total halogen content of the used oil by using test methods such as Chlor-D-Tect. If over 1,000 parts per million (ppm) it is assumed to be mixed with dangerous waste and no longer used oil.
- Keep storage units (tanks and containers) in good condition and not leaking.

- Use secondary containment which is impervious to used oil.
- Label containers, tanks and associated pipes with the words “**Used Oil.**”
- Develop a written waste analysis plan.
- Respond to spills by stopping, containing, cleaning up the spill, and making necessary repairs.
- Keep records of each shipment of used oil accepted, including:
  - Names of all transporters and generators
  - Address of all transporters and generators
  - All related RCRA ID numbers
  - Quantity and dates of acceptance
- Keep records of all inspections, repairs, analytical results, agreements with local authorities, a copy of the contingency plan, any other plan or operating records, and annual reports on-site.
- Keep all records on-site for at least three years.

## Frequently Asked Questions

**Q** *What additional Washington State regulations are there?*

- A**
- There are financial requirements such as:
    - Having a detailed written estimate of the cost of closing the facility.
    - Establishing the financial assurance to be able to close the facility.
    - Demonstrating financial assurance for bodily injury and property damage to third parties.
    - For detailed information refer to WAC 173-303-620(1)(a).
  - There is a 90-day storage time limit to get used oil into an active recycling process to avoid the need for a TSD permit.
  - There are facility closure standards such as:
    - Submitting a written closure plan to Ecology for approval.
    - Once approved, the plan must remain current.
    - Meeting closure performance standards.
    - For detailed information refer to WAC 173-303-610(2) & (12),

**Q** *As a processor or re-refiner of used oil, do I need to notify Ecology?*

- A** Yes. If you also function as a used oil marketer, transporter, or off-specification burner you must notify Ecology as well.

*If you need this information in an alternate format, please call the Hazardous Waste and Toxics Reduction Program at 360-407-6700. Persons with hearing loss can call 711 for Washington Relay Service. Persons with a speech disability can call 877-833-6341.*