



## Boston College Environmental Health and Safety

### Overview

Because used oils are regulated differently than other wastes; this guidance document explains how to manage your used oils in compliance with the environmental regulations. A used oil is any oil, that has been refined from crude oil or any synthetic oil, that has been used and as result of such use is contaminated by physical or chemical impurities.

Some examples of products that after use become "used oil" are:

- synthetic oil
- engine oil (crankcase oils and piston-engine oils)
- transmission fluid
- refrigeration and compressor oils
- industrial hydraulic fluid
- electrical insulating oil (No PCBs)
- oil storage tank residues

Used oil is NOT:

- spilled oil and oil contaminated materials
- antifreeze
- kerosene, diesel fuel, gasoline
- animal or vegetable oil
- petroleum distillates used as solvents (e.g., parts cleaning solution, mineral spirits)

### General Requirements

- Do not discharge waste oil into sinks or storm drains or onto the ground
- Do not place in normal refuse containers (such as dumpsters)
- Do not mix used oil with other wastes (see next section)
- Clean up spills upon detection. In the event of a spill or other release immediately notify Environmental Health & Safety. Notification to Massachusetts DEP and the federal National Response Center may be required.

**Do not put ANYTHING other than Waste Oil into waste oil containers. If waste oil becomes contaminated with hazardous wastes (e.g., paints, solvents, paint thinner, PCBs, or any other contaminants), then the College may be**

**required to comply the hazardous waste, rather than the waste oil, regulations. This significantly increases the cost of disposal and puts us at risk of penalties for improper hazardous waste management.**

### **If You Accumulate Waste Oil in Quantities of 55-gallons or More:**

Waste oil collection areas with the potential to accumulate 55-gallons or more (i.e., more than one barrel or drum) must be managed in accordance with Massachusetts Hazardous Waste regulations. Proper management requirements for waste oil accumulation areas include:

- Containers must be labeled with the words:

**HAZARDOUS WASTE**

**WASTE OIL**

**TOXIC**

**[date]**

- The beginning accumulation date (i.e., the date the first drop of waste oil is placed in the container) must be noted on the label. The waste oil must be disposed of within 90 days of the beginning accumulation date – regardless of whether the container is full or not. Contact Environmental Health and Safety to arrange for pickup of waste oil. Allow at least one week prior to the 90-day limit to allow time for Environmental Health & Safety to arrange for the pickup.
- Waste oil containers (e.g., barrels or drums) must be stored in designated areas. The areas must be posted with a sign that says:

**WASTE OIL**

in capital letters at least one inch high. The area must be clearly delineated and marked, for example by outlining the Waste Oil collection area using marking tape on the floor or by using paint.

- Waste oil containers must be kept closed except when adding waste. Do not leave an open funnel in the drum. Keep the bungs closed and remove the funnel between periods of use.
- Manage used oil in a way that prevents a release
  - Use only containers that are in good condition
  - Store used oil so as to minimize spills or leaks
  - Secondary containment must be used for waste oil containers stored outdoors or near floor drains.

### **If You Accumulate Waste Oil in Small Quantities (less than 55-gallons):**

- Small quantities of waste oil may be collected in satellite accumulation areas. Waste oil containers in satellite accumulation areas must be marked with the words:

## HAZARDOUS WASTE

### WASTE OIL

### TOXIC

Do not put the date on waste oil containers in satellite accumulation areas until the container is full. Full containers must be moved to a designated waste oil collection area (complete with sign and area delineation marking as described above) within **3 days**. No more than one container of waste oil may be stored in a satellite accumulation area. And, no more than 55 gallons may be accumulated in a satellite area.

Satellite accumulation areas must be right at the location where the waste oil is generated, and satellite accumulation containers must be under the control and supervision of staff working in the area where the oil was generated.