

Safe, Smart, Solutions for Iowa



If you use or store your household chemicals improperly, they could end up in the wrong package.

Motor Oil

Motor oil doesn't wear out, it just gets dirty. As it lubricates your engine it picks up a variety of contaminants causing the need for an oil change.

When disposed of improperly, used oil can poison fish and kill aquatic plants. **Never** pour used oil down any type of drain, into a sanitary sewer or onto the ground. One pint of oil can form a slick as big as a football field on a lake or pond.

Chapter 455D.13 of the code of Iowa prohibits final disposal of oil in a landfill. A landfill liner leak would allow used oil to leach out and contaminate the ground water, Iowa's primary source of drinking water. In addition, any retailer selling oil must either accept waste

oil from customers or post notice of locations that will accept used oil.

What happens to the used oil I bring in for recycling?

Used oil is recycled in several ways. It can be re-refined by removing contaminants and water. Oil



displaying the API "Donut" or ILSAC starburst meets the same certification as

virgin motor oil. It can also be used as a lubricating oil. Re-refined Used oil can also be reprocessed into fuel to heat homes or generate electricity. Two gallons of used motor oil can provide enough electricity to run the average household for about a day.



Used Oil filters

Even after a filter has been drained for several hours, several ounces of oil remains trapped in the filter. This oil will leach out and may contaminate ground or surface water. Recycling used oil filters is preferred.

What happens to the used oil filters I bring in to be recycled?

The filter is either crushed and heated to a high temperature to remove the oil for recycling or it is shredded. The scrap metal is sent to smelters where it is used in steel products, which saves four times as much energy as virgin iron ore and conserves natural resources.

Recycling your used oil and used oil filters

The department strongly recommends all used oil filters be recycled. However, if you do choose to landfill them, you must follow the following steps to remove the free flowing oil. Check with your local landfill before putting them in the trash. Several Iowa landfills have banned used oil filters.

First drain the oil from your car and remove the filter from the vehicle. Allow the free flowing oil to drain from the filter.



Carefully puncture a hole in the dome end of the filter through the anti-drain back valve. Puncturing the filter breaks the vacuum and allows

much of the trapped oil to drain out. Turn the filter upside down and drain as much oil as possible. For best results drain for a minimum of 12 hours at room temperature.



Pour the oil into a clean container with a tight fitting lid. Original motor oil containers work well for this. Never use containers that once held chemicals, household cleaners such as bleach, gasoline or solvent. The residues in these containers can contaminate the oil. If you do not bring it in right away, store out of the reach of children and label "used oil".

For a list of locations that accept used motor oil and used oil filters please see our web site at

www.safesmartolutions.org



For more information please visit our web site at www.safesmartolutions.org



Department of Natural Resources
Wallace State Office Building
502 East 9th Street
Des Moines Iowa 50319-0034

