



Used Oil Management

Regulations

Alabama Department of Environmental Management (ADEM) views used oil as a marketable product that can be sent off-site for recycling. However, ADEM also recognizes that if used oil is not properly handled, it can cause significant environmental damage. ADEM Administrative Code 335-14-17 addresses the regulatory responsibilities associated with used oil in Alabama.

In the state of Alabama, used oil is not regulated as a hazardous waste if it is recycled or burned as a fuel. This means that your used oil, if not mixed or contaminated with hazardous waste, can be managed under the used oil regulations. Some examples of used oil include used engine oil, lubricating oil, gear oil, transmission fluid and hydraulic fluid.

Used Oil Management. As a used oil generator, you must ensure that used oil is properly managed by a recycling or disposal company. If you generate used oil in your University operations, please contact the Department of Risk Management and Safety (RMS) @ 844-4805 so that proper arrangements can be made for removal of your used oil.

Prohibited Uses of Used Oil. It is illegal to dispose of used oil improperly. Note the following important restrictions:

- Do not discharge used oil to sanitary or storm sewers, drainage ditches, septic tanks, or streams.
- Do not dispose of used oil as a solid waste in campus dumpsters.
- Do not mix used oil with other contaminants such as gasoline or solvents. The resulting mixture may be a hazardous waste and would require strict management.
- Do not use used oil for road oiling, dust control, weed control or for similar purposes.

Storage of Used Oil. Used oil must be stored in tanks or containers that are in good condition. This means:

- No severe rusting;
- No bulging or major dents; and
- No visible leaks.

Containers holding used oil must always be closed, except when removing or adding used oil.

Many of the used oil regulations relate to good housekeeping practices. As a used oil generator, you must:

- Label all storage containers or tanks with the words "**Used Oil**;"
- The labels must be visible from 25 feet away;
- Store used oil container in sufficiently sized secondary containment;
- Store used oil in containers or tanks in good condition;
- Inspect used oil containers routinely;
- If there is a leak of used oil: stop the leak, contain it, clean it up and properly manage the cleanup materials.

Oil Spills. If a spill occurs, you must perform the following cleanup steps:

1. Stop the release;
2. Contain the released used oil;
3. Notify RMS by calling 844-4805.
4. Clean up and properly manage the released used oil and other materials per guidance provided by RMS; and
5. If necessary, repair or replace any leaking used oil storage containers or tanks prior to returning them to service.

For More Information:

<http://www.adem.alabama.gov/Publications/RCRA/RCRA.htm>

<http://www.epa.gov/epawaste/conservation/materials/usedoil/index.htm>