



# Best Management Practices for Used Oil Collection Centers



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 a Used Oil Collection Center?

A used oil collection center is a site or facility that is registered (or permitted) by local government to accept and collect used oil from used oil generators.

## Required Management for Used Oil Collection Centers

- Label containers, tanks and associated pipes “Used Oil.”
- Keep containers closed, except when adding or removing used oil.
- Handle containers safely so they do not leak or rupture.
- Do not mix anything into the used oil. If you do, it isn’t used oil anymore, and it may even be dangerous waste.
- Respond to spills by stopping, containing, cleaning up the spill and making necessary repairs.
- Store used oil only in tanks or containers and inspect them regularly.

## Recommended Management for Used Oil Collection Centers

- Store used oil in areas with secondary containment.

## Frequently Asked Questions

**Q** *Can collection centers accept used oil from do-it-yourself (DIY) generators?*

**A** Yes, but remember to follow the BMPs above.

- A** • Ecology recommends that collection centers keep DIY used oil separate from other used oil accepted from businesses. Something may have been added to the DIY oil that could cause the mixture to become a dangerous waste.

**Q** *Can collection centers burn off-specification used oil collected from businesses in their own space heaters on-site?*

- A** No. This is a limited option for generators of their own used oil. If the collection center wants to burn off-specification used oil from off-site sources, they must comply with the off-specification used oil burner regulations which will require a boiler or industrial furnace.

**Q** *Can collection centers burn on-specification used oil or DIY used oil they collect from off-site sources in their own space heaters on-site?*

- A** Yes, but remember to:
- Follow BMPs on the previous page and marketer requirements for on-specification used oil.
  - Make sure the space heater is vented to the outside and has a capacity of no more than 0.5 million British Thermal Units (BTUs) per hour.

**Q** *The U. S. Environmental Protection Agency limits the amount of used oil a collection center can accept from a used oil generator to 55 gallons per shipment. Is this requirement different in Washington State and if so, what extra requirements are there?*

- A** Yes, in Washington state a collection center must:
- Comply with the BMPs on previous page.
  - Keep a log of the generator's name, address, telephone number, date of delivery and amount of used oil delivered. Keep log records for three years.
  - Comply with the used oil transfer facility requirements, which include:
    - To notify Ecology and get a RCRA Identification number.
    - Test the oil to determine if the halogen content is below or above 1,000 parts per million (ppm). Keep test results for three years.
    - Include secondary containment for storage units.
- Refer to 40 CFR Part 279.40 through 279.47 for a complete list of requirements.

**Q** *As a collection center that does not accept any shipment of used oil over 55 gallons, what recordkeeping is required?*

- A** Although collection centers are not required to keep any records, Ecology recommends keeping:
- A log of each shipment of used oil accepted.
  - A log of any test results conducted on the used oil.
  - A log of inspections and repairs conducted on used oil storage containers, tanks, secondary containment areas, and space heaters.

**Q** *As a collection center of used oil, do I need to notify Ecology?*

- A** • No, as long as the collection center does not accept any shipment of used oil which exceeds 55 gallons.
- Yes, if the center accepts a shipment of used oil over 55 gallons from any generator.
  - Yes, if the center also functions as a used oil marketer, transporter, off-specification burner, used oil processor, or re-recycler.

*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.*