



Burning Used Oil

What is used oil?

Used oil is any oil refined from crude or synthetic oil and contaminated by physical or chemical impurities as a result of use. Used oil includes lubricants, electrical insulation oil, hydraulic fluid, heat transfer oil, brake fluid, refrigeration oil, grease, or machine cutting oil. Used oil does not include oil mixed with hazardous waste (with the exception of some ignitable wastes), petroleum and synthetic-based products used as solvent, antifreeze, wastewater from which the used oil has been removed, or oil-contaminated media or debris.

Used oil specification

Used oil is on-specification when it does not exceed any allowable levels listed in Table 1.

If used oil is on-specification, used oil regulations no longer apply. It can be stored, transported, and burned as a fuel oil. Analytical and transport records should be maintained to justify this designation.

If used oil is off-specification, all used oil regulations apply.

Table 1: Used Oil Specifications

Constituent / Property	Allowable Level
Arsenic	5 parts per million (ppm) max
Cadmium	2 ppm max
Chromium	10 ppm max
Lead	100 ppm max
Flash point	100°F min
Total Halogens	4,000 ppm max ²

Burning off-specification used oil

Facilities that burn off-specification used oil must follow these requirements:

DO:

- Obtain an EPA ID number. See [Obtaining an EPA Identification Number](#).
- Only burn the off-specification used oil for energy recovery in industrial furnaces or boilers that meet the requirements of [40 CFR 279.61\(a\)](#).
- Store used oil in tanks and containers in good condition.
- Mark aboveground storage tanks, containers, and fill pipes connected to underground storage tanks with the words “USED OIL.”
- Process and store used oil in areas with oil-impervious flooring and secondary containment structures (e.g., berms, or dikes).
- Clean up any used oil spills or leaks.

DO NOT:

- Process oil except for the **incidental processing** (e.g., settling, water separation) that occurs during the normal course of operations but is not designed to produce used oil-derived product. Burners who conduct more than incidental processing must follow the used oil processor and re-refiner requirements in [40 CFR 279 Subpart F](#).

- Aggregate off-specification used oil with virgin oil or on-specification used oil for the purposes of producing on-specification used oil. Off-specification used oil may be aggregated with virgin oil or on-specification used oil only for the purpose of burning.
- Utilize used oil for dust control, road oiling, weed control, or apply it to the ground or vegetation.

Recordkeeping

Before accepting the first shipment, provide each generator, marketer, transporter, or processor/re-refiner a one-time written and signed notice containing the certification requirements specified in [40 CFR 279.66](#).

Keep a record of each used oil shipment accepted for burning. Records for each shipment must include the following:

- Name, address, and EPA ID number of the transporter who delivered the used oil.
- Name, address, and if applicable, the EPA ID number of the used oil generator.
- Quantity and acceptance date of the used oil.

The off-specification used oil records must be kept for at least 3 years.

Space heaters

Used oil can be burned in a space heater without testing under the following conditions:

- The heater only burns used oil the owner or operator of a business generates onsite or received from a household do-it-yourself used oil generator.
- The heater is designed to have a maximum capacity of 0.5 million Btu per hour.
- The combustion gases from the heater are vented to the outside air.

For More Information

For specific questions, contact your nearest DEQ regional office:

- Boise Office: (208) 373-0550
- Coeur d'Alene Office: (208) 769-1422
- Idaho Falls Office: (208) 528-2650
- Lewiston Office: (208) 799-4370
- Pocatello Office: (208) 236-6160
- Twin Falls Office: (208) 736-2190

For general information, see www.deq.idaho.gov or call the Hazardous Waste bureau at the state office at (208) 373-0502.