



## Recycling Used Oil\*

### Why Recycle? Dumping Oil Is Illegal!

In Kentucky it is illegal to dump used oil because it can pollute the environment and endanger public health. A person who dumps used oil may be fined up to \$1,000.

### Why Recycle? It's Easy!

To recycle used oil, simply drain your oil into a suitable container, transfer it into an unbreakable, sealable container such as a plastic milk jug or gas can (do not empty into an antifreeze container). Don't mix with anything else (paint, gasoline, solvents, antifreeze, etc.) Seal and take it to a collection center, a service station or other location that collects used oil for recycling.

### Why Recycling Your Oil Helps The Environment And Saves Energy -

- Used oil from a single oil change can ruin a million gallons of fresh water - a year's supply for 50 people. Used oil is insoluble, persistent, and can contain toxic chemicals and heavy metals. It's slow to degrade. Used oil is a major source of oil pollution in our nation's waterways.

- Used oil contains harmful chemical waste, some of which are potentially hazardous to human health. Oil dumped in the garbage or on the ground can eventually find its way into our water supply. Heavy rains can transport oil dumped on the ground into our waterways.



- One quart of oil can form an oil slick of nearly two acres in size.

- 'Do-it-yourselfers' - consumers who change their own oil - generate at least 200 million gallons of used oil every year. Americans who change their own oil throw away 120 million gallons of recoverable motor oil by dumping it on the ground, pouring it down storm drains, or putting it in trash cans.
- Recycling this oil would save the United States 1.3 million barrels of oil **per day**. One gallon of used oil provides the same 2.5 quarts of lubricating oil as 42 gallons of crude oil
- Re-refined oil is as good as new oil.
- Used oil can be re-refined for lubricating oil with 1/4 the energy required to produce new oil.
- The energy potential of used oil is lost forever when it is thrown away.

### What can you do? Recycle!

Today almost 60 percent of the nation's automotive oil is changed by consumers. Recycle used oil from cars, trucks, boats, motorcycles, recreational vehicles, and lawnmowers.



## Save Your Used Oil

### Please Don't

- Dump your used oil on the ground.
- Dump your used oil in the garbage.
- Dump your used oil on the roads.

### Please Do

- Collect your used oil in a container.
- Take your used oil to a collection center for recycling.

The more waste we generate, the more we have to treat, store, and dispose of. Recycling makes more sense today than ever.

Improper waste management costs money - your money! You pay in higher consumer prices, taxes for environmental cleanups, and increased health care costs, when wastes are improperly managed.

Recycling saves money *and* protects the environment. Help be part of the solution, not part of the problem. Recycle used oil and other household materials, such as newspaper, glass, metals, and plastic.

If your community has an oil recycling program, join it. If it doesn't, start one. Write for EPA's manual entitled *How to Set Up A Local Program To Recycle Used Oil* at the following address or call EPA's RCRA/Superfund Hotline at 1-800-424-9346 (in Washington, DC, 382-3000).

## Remember:

Environmental quality is everybody's business, and everybody can do a lot to help.

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency  
Office of Solid Waste  
401 M Street, SW  
Washington, DC 20460



- \* Adapted from:
- a. *Protect Your Environment, Recycle Used Oil*, by the Fleming Co., Kentucky Extension Homemakers Association, and
  - b. *Recycling Used Oil...What Can You Do?*, by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Washington, D.C.

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