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# NF03-573 Handling Used Oil A Guide For Small Businesses

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## Handling Used Oil A Guide For Small Businesses

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Water is one of our most precious resources, particularly in Nebraska. Nebraska has more underground water than any other continental state. Protecting this water is essential since the majority of Nebraskans obtain their drinking water from underground sources. Considering that as much as 40 percent of the pollution in lakes and streams comes from used oil, the best way to protect our water may be preventing oil pollution by properly disposing of used oil.

Dumping used oil (any refined crude oil) into landfills was made illegal in Nebraska by LB1257 in 1994. A study conducted by the Coalition on Recycling in Nebraska estimates that 5 million gallons of used oil are generated each year in rural areas of Nebraska alone. Just 1 gallon of used oil can contaminate 1 million gallons of drinking water. Programs such as the Nebraska Used Oil Collection Program and methods such as oil-burning furnaces or space heaters make it easy to get rid of unwanted oil. Some companies will pay for used oil.

### Used Oil Disposal Options

#### **Purchase an oil-burning furnace**

Burning your own used oil can save money by reducing the need for natural gas or electric heat as well as eliminating expensive disposal costs. This is also a reliable way to reduce your liability for used oil contamination. Before purchasing an oil-burning furnace, consider:

- *How much used oil do you generate?*

A 10,000-square-foot business will probably need more than 1,000 gallons per year. Your business should probably generate at least 50 percent of its heating needs, unless you are prepared to purchase some type of No. 2 heating oil as a supplement to the used oil.

- *What should not be mixed with the used oil?*

Gasoline, water, antifreeze, brake fluid, most solvents and toxic substances should not be burned in an oil-burning furnace.

*- Installation Cost*

Used oil furnaces (with accessories) usually cost around \$3,000 to \$5,000 plus a \$500 to \$1,000 installation cost, depending on the size of the furnace and chimney. If you currently use an inefficient gas furnace and have unwanted used oil, this could be a valuable option.

*- Acquiring a permit*

Used oil furnaces and space heaters that produce less than 0.5 million BTUs of heat normally may be used at the site of used oil generation without permits or special regulations. They may, but usually do not, require air quality permits from the Nebraska Department of Environmental Quality (NDEQ). Call (402) 471-8697 for more information. In Lancaster County and in the City of Omaha, the Lincoln-Lancaster County Health Department and the City of Omaha, respectively, are responsible for enforcing air quality regulations related to the furnaces.

*- Testing used oil*

A business that burns its own used oil or used oil provided solely by household do-it-yourselfers is not required to have the oil tested (see page 2).

**Give oil to someone who has an oil-burning furnace**

An individual (household) may give his or her used oil to another individual or business for burning in an oil furnace without testing for specification levels. Any business, including farming and ranching, that generates used oil sent directly to another business to burn for energy recovery must notify the NDEQ that they are a used oil marketer and must determine if the used oil meets specifications. This requires lab testing for each batch of oil. Most petroleum companies and any lab that tests hazardous waste can test used oil for specification. Testing can cost between \$100 and \$500. Look in the phone directory or on the Internet for "Heating Systems (or Furnaces) - Oil." If used oil does not meet specifications, it can only be burned under specific conditions. Refer to the NDEQ's Web site at <http://www.deq.state.ne.us/> under "Forms and Publications" for used oil guidance documents.

**Contract pickup of used oil**

Some businesses will pay a nominal price for your used oil while others will charge to take it, depending on quantity and contents. These services usually include testing of the oil, which must be treated if it is mixed with water, antifreeze or toxic substances. There may be a charge to accept the oil if it has been contaminated with these substances. A business that works with a used oil marketer is not responsible for having the oil tested, whether the used oil marketer buys the used oil, takes it for no charge or charges for the service.

Look in the phone business directory for petroleum companies or "oils-waste" or search the Internet for "used oil recycling and disposal." Although it takes less energy to make new oil from used, rather than crude oil, very few companies actually re-refine used oil. Most petroleum companies burn the oil as industrial fuel.

**The Nebraska Used Oil Collection Program**

The used oil collection program is available to individuals and businesses at no cost. Each collection site determines if a particular batch of oil is acceptable. Businesses that generate a small quantity of used oil

may find that the used oil collection program is the best option available. Contact Keep Nebraska Beautiful at (402) 486-4562 or <http://www.knb.org> for more information about the program. To find other sites that accept used oil, contact local auto and petroleum businesses.

### **What is accepted**

- Spent oil from gasoline and diesel engines
- Spent refrigerant lubricating oil
- Spent lubricating oil from aircraft reciprocating and jet engines
- Spent hydraulic fluid
- Spent heat transfer fluids
- Spent transmission fluid
- Cutting oils

### **What is not accepted**

- Spent antifreeze
- Brake fluid
- Solvent of any kind
- Used oil with water (quantity of water dependent upon vendor/marketer)

## **Oil-containing Materials**

### **Oil filters**

Before an oil filter is drained, it can contain 2-13 ounces of used oil. The following criteria set by the NDEQ must be met prior to landfill disposal:

1. The filters are non-terne plated filters (terne is a lead-tin alloy);
2. The filters contain no free liquids (i.e., must be crushed, or punctured and drained, and/or dismantled and drained);
3. Oil filters must be drained using one of the following hot-draining methods (oil is drained near engine operating temperature and above room temperature):
  - Puncture the filter's anti-drain back valve or the filter dome end and hot-drain;
  - Hot-drain and crush;
  - Dismantle and hot-drain; or
  - Any other equivalent hot-draining method.

Oil filters can be recycled as scrap metal if properly drained or crushed. See the NDEQ Recycling Resource Directory for a business near you or contact a company that picks up used oil for more information.

### **Granular oil absorbents and pads**

All solid waste generation is subject to a possible hazardous waste determination. If hazardous, oil absorbents resulting from cleanup of spilled petroleum products do not require NDEQ approval before disposal. However, NDEQ does require proper hazardous waste management and disposal. For example, a small quantity generator or large quantity generator must manifest hazardous waste sorbents to a permitted facility. A conditionally exempt small quantity generator might be able to send hazardous waste sorbents to a municipal solid waste landfill if the material is allowed. To avoid generating possible

hazardous waste, use recyclable absorbents such as cellulose and diatomaceous earth. Find out more about these products via the Internet or local businesses.

### **Emptied oil containers**

Plastic bottles that have not been completely drained of oil are not recyclable in Nebraska. To prepare them for recycling, drain them overnight on an oil bottle draining rack. Empty oil containers may be added to the trash.

Regulations regarding oil- and petroleum-related waste are in NDEQ Title 128 and Title 132 at: <http://www.deq.state.ne.us/>. For clarification call the Nebraska Department of Environmental Quality at (402) 471-4210. For other useful information on used oil, refer to Nebraska Cooperative Extension NebFact 94-196 Handling Wastes: Used Oil and Antifreeze.

**Nebraska Used Oil Collection Sites  
(for updates, check the KNB Web page  
at <http://www.knb.org>)**

City of Alma/Harlan County  
Agri Co-op, 804 North Highway 183, Alma  
City of Alma: (308) 928-2242

Antelope County  
East Highway 275, Neligh  
Tom Schindler: (402) 887-4453

Beatrice Area Solid Waste Agency  
3426 W. Locust Road, Beatrice  
Mark Hyberger: (402) 223-3367

Boone County  
204 S. Front St., Petersburg  
Les Daniels: (402) 386-5288

Cedar County  
56550 East Highway 84, Hartington  
Crystal Lenzen or Pat Guy: (402) 254-6353

Clay County  
401 S. Clay, Clay Center  
Pete Dykema: (402) 762-3532

Colfax County  
121 W. 20th St., Schuyler  
Glen Steffensmeier: (402) 352-8510

Custer County  
Custer County Recycling  
HC 74, Box 32B, Broken Bow  
Kelly Flynn: (308) 872-2218

Dixon County  
Allen & Newcastle County Road Sheds  
Deloy Benne: (402) 287-9952

City of Fairbury  
305 Frederick St., Fairbury  
Edgar Coatman: (402) 729-5261

Fillmore County  
615 F St., Geneva  
Pat Halbur: (402) 759-3611

Franklin County  
Highway 136 West, Franklin  
Franklin County Weed Control: (308) 425-3716

City of Hastings  
Hastings Landfill, 725 S. Southern Hills  
Jack E. Newlun Jr.: (402) 461-2308

City of Holdrege  
Prairie Hill Landfill  
506 13th St., Holdrege  
Larry Duval: (308) 995-5387

Johnson County  
813 N. First St., Tecumseh  
Keith Weber: (402) 335-3789

City of Kearney  
6711 W. 56th St., Kearney  
Steve Hart: (308) 233-3206

Knox County  
101 Main St., Center  
Kevin Barta: (402) 288-4421

Lancaster County  
Transfer Station, 5101 N. 48th St., Lincoln  
Gate House: (402) 441-8104

Firth Energy Co.  
208 W. Third St., Firth  
Norm Nicholson: (402) 791-5837

Lexington Area Solid Waste Agency  
76460 Highway 21, Lexington  
Dave Sterner: (308) 324-3351

Merrick County

County Shop, West Highway 30, Central City  
Jim L. Graves: (308) 946-2164

City of Minden  
City Landfill, East Highway 6, Minden  
Greg Hinrichsen: (308) 832-1820

Nemaha County  
1619 27th St., Auburn  
Harry Bowman: (402) 274-4019

City of Norfolk  
Norfolk Transfer Station  
600 E. Monroe, Norfolk  
Gary Lund: (402) 644-8715

City of North Platte  
3320 W. Northlake Road, North Platte  
LeRoy Swain: (308) 535-6702

Nuckolls County  
110 E. Fourth St., Nelson  
Nuckolls County Weed Department: (402) 225-3931

City of Omaha  
5800 S. 10th St., Omaha  
Paul Dunn: (402) 444-3908, Ext. 228

Otoe County  
5150 Highway 2, Nebraska City  
Bob Fleming: (402) 873-9586

240 N. 30th Road, Syracuse  
Rich Kuenning: (402) 269-2476

Pawnee County  
342 Fifth St., Pawnee City  
Bill Hansel: (402) 852-2981

Pierce County  
West of Highway 13 on 854 Road, Pierce  
Wilbur Warneke: (402) 329-4225

Red Willow County  
108 W. Railroad Service Road, McCook  
Bill Elliott: (308) 345-4333

Richardson County  
Roads Dept., West 21st St., Falls City  
Terry Frank: (402) 245-2614

Saline County  
320 W. 16th, Crete  
Bruce Filipi: (402) 821-2737

Sarpy County  
Sarpy County Landfill  
14414 S. 156th St., Springfield  
Duwaine Brigman: (402) 253-2371

Papillion Sanitation  
10810 S. 144th St., Papillion  
(402) 346-7800

Saunders County  
216 N. Orange, Wahoo  
Highway Department: (402) 443-8124

Sherman County  
Rt. 1, Box 1952, Loup City  
Marie Fredrick: (308) 745-1524

City of South Sioux City  
125 E. 26th St., South Sioux City  
Joe Baxter: (402) 494-8166

Stanton County  
1101 Elm St., Stanton  
Dennis Kment: (402) 439-2215

Thayer County  
Rt. 2, Box 52, Hebron  
Richard Heinrichs: (402) 768-6155

Washington County Recycling Center  
440 S. Third St., Kennard  
Neil Rosenbaum: (402) 427-7207

Wayne County  
County Road Shops at Carroll, Hoskins, Wayne & Winside  
Myron Miller: (402) 286-4414

Webster County  
Red Cloud Power Plant, North Highway 281, Red Cloud  
Albert Wood: (402) 746-2214

Webster County Road Department  
Bladen  
Rod Kohmetscher: (402) 758-1272

York Area Solid Waste Agency



1214 Road 15, York  
Dave Martell: (402) 363-2690

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