

# USED OIL FILTER MANAGEMENT FOR AUTO REPAIR SHOPS



In November 2006, members of the Auto Repair Shop industry sector on Saipan met with CNMI DEQ in a roundtable discussion to identify high-priority areas for preventing pollution and improving environmental compliance. Surface water and groundwater protection emerged as an important responsibility for shop owners and a topic DEQ will focus on during 2007.

## ARE USED OIL FILTERS HAZARDOUS WASTE?

Used oil filters are hazardous waste, **UNLESS** they are properly drained. You can be fined for improper or illegal hazardous waste management if you do not properly drain your oil filters. But by simply draining them properly, they can be recycled at much lower disposal cost.

## WHY DRAIN OIL FILTERS?

Undrained oil filters contain about 12 ounces of oil. Oil filters thrown away without adequate draining can leak oil onto the ground and or into nearby water bodies through storm water runoff. Oil contamination is a concern because:

- ⊗ Used oil can contain compounds toxic to humans and animals including benzene, cadmium, chromium, lead, and zinc;
- ⊗ 1 gallon of used oil can make 1,000,000 gallons of water undrinkable



## HOW TO DRAIN OIL FILTERS

A properly drained used oil filter **IS NOT** hazardous waste according to U.S. regulations [reference: 40 CFR 261.4(b)(13)]. Two methods to properly drain filters are:

1. Drain filter over a grated funnel attached to the used oil storage drum (see photo at left).
2. Drain filter over a shallow pan like an oil drain pan and then pour the oil to a used oil container.

Grated drum covers and funnels can be obtained from your local auto repair store or on line vendors.



# USED OIL FILTER MANAGEMENT

## FOR AUTO REPAIR SHOPS (CONT.)

### HOW DOES U.S. EPA DEFINE PROPER DRAINING?

To make sure used filter are not hazardous waste, you must drain the filter according to EPA requirements:

	"Hot Drain"	"Cold Drain"
<b>Temperature</b>	Near engine operating temperature (at least 60 °F)	Less than 60 °F
<b>Time</b>	At least 12 hours	At least 24 hours
<b>Puncture?</b>	Puncture the dome end or anti-drain back with a screwdriver or sharp tool to break internal vacuum and assist draining.	Recommended, but not required.
<b>Crushing</b>	Crushing is <u>not required</u> but reduces waste volume and removes residual oil from the paper inside the filter.	
<b>Ready for Trash?</b>	<u>There should be no oil dripping or flowing from the used filter after proper draining.</u>	

Notes:

Additional information can be obtained online at:

<http://www.filtercouncil.org/envinfo/educational/recshop.html>

<http://es.epa.gov/techinfo/facts/oilfiltr2.html>

After proper draining, recycle the used oil filters as scrap metal. If a recycling option is not available, put the used oil filters in plastic bags and dispose of them with the regular trash.

**Bottom Line: NEVER throw away an undrained used oil filter. Train all shop workers to drain used oil filters for 24 hours immediately after the filter is removed from the vehicle.**

**Do your part to protect Saipan's natural resources and the reputation of the auto repair industry: Prevent oil spills and store used oil properly. For more information contact:**

**Division of Environmental Quality  
Storage, Tank, Oil, Pesticide (STOP) Division  
Gualo Rai Center  
P.O. Box 501304, Saipan, MP 96950**

**Call CNMI DEQ at 670-664-8500 for more ideas about environmental protection and information about complying with local regulations.**

