

Running a mobile oil changing business? Know Your Ohio EPA Regulations . . .

Mobile oil changing services generate used oil, used oil filters, and other wastes that, if not properly managed, can pose an environmental threat and lead to violations. Therefore, it's important that mobile oil changing services understand and comply with the environmental requirements. This fact sheet will help you understand the rules that might apply to your oil changing business.

What regulations apply to my mobile oil changing business?

Mobile oil change businesses must comply with Ohio EPA's used oil rules. Oil change businesses are defined as generators of used oil. Most generator requirements relate to good housekeeping practices and proper on-site management of used oil. Other activities, such as used oil transportation and storage, may also be regulated. The rules require used oil to be sent to a recycling or disposal facility; recycling is highly recommended.

After I change oil at a customer's business, I want to transport it. What rules apply to me?

If you transport less than 55-gallons of used oil from your customers' sites to either your business or a [used oil collection center](#), you do not need to notify Ohio EPA and obtain a [U.S. EPA identification number](#). If you take used oil back to your business, it would be considered a used oil aggregation point. If you take used oil to a collection center, the center must be registered with Ohio EPA. In these situations, Ohio EPA's rules do not require you to complete shipping papers to pick up the used oil. It's a good idea, though, to do so voluntarily.

If you transport more than 55-gallons of used oil, or take it somewhere other than your business location or a collection center, then you need to obtain a U.S. EPA identification number from Ohio EPA and comply with the [used oil transporter rules](#).

What are my basic responsibilities as a used oil generator?

Once you change oil at a customer's business, you become a [used oil generator](#). As a used oil generator:

- Your containers and tanks must be in good condition and labeled with the words "Used Oil." This applies to
- containers/tanks that you transport used oil in and containers/tanks that you store used oil in at your business.
- If a spill occurs, you must clean it up and properly manage wastes or residues generated from the cleanup. You need to [evaluate these wastes to see if they are hazardous before disposal](#). All oil spills must be cleaned up, regardless of the amount spilled.
- You need to ensure that used oil is not mixed with other wastes such as solvents, gasoline, or other chemicals that might cause it to become a hazardous waste.
- If you have a transporter pick up used oil from your business, they must have a U.S. EPA identification number from Ohio EPA's [Division of Environmental Response and Revitalization \(DERR\)](#).

For questions about the used oil generator requirements, or to check if your transporter has an identification number, you can contact DERR at (614) 644-2924.



IMPORTANT

Under Ohio EPA's rules, you CANNOT dispose of used oil by dumping it on the ground, into a septic system, or the trash! Also, you CANNOT put used oil on the ground to control weeds or suppress dust on your property.

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Do I have to comply with the Spill Prevention Control and Countermeasure (SPCC) requirements?

If you store used oil at your business, you may need to comply with the Spill Prevention Control and Countermeasures (SPCC) regulations. You are subject to the SPCC rules if you have a total aboveground on-site storage capacity of more than 1,320 gallons.

The SPCC rules apply to used oil and oil products stored at your business. The total capacity of your tanks or containers must be considered, not the actual amount of oil stored or the portion commonly used. If you are storing oil in containers that are less than 55-gallons in size, you do not need to include these in calculating your SPCC storage capacity.

If you are subject to the SPCC rules, you must develop a SPCC plan and provide secondary containment for storage areas.

U.S. EPA oversees the SPCC program in Ohio. If you have questions on the SPCC rules, you can contact the U.S. EPA Oil Information Center at (800) 424-9346 (option #2) or U.S. EPA's SPCC region 5 contact at (734) 214-4898.



IMPORTANT

Although these drums are in good condition, they're not labeled with the words "used oil." Make sure your used oil drums are labeled.

If you store used oil in an underground tank, you must also comply with the State Fire Marshal's office [Bureau of Underground Storage Tank Regulations \(BUSTR\)](#).

What are the options for managing used oil?

Once you collect used oil, you are required to send it off-site for recycling or disposal. The used oil rules encourage recycling through reconditioning, re-refining, reuse, or burning for energy recovery. A list of used oil recyclers is available on Ohio EPA's [recycling directory](#).

If you decide to send your used oil off-site to a disposal company instead of a recycler, you must still comply with the used oil management requirements described above. You also need to evaluate the used oil to determine if it is a hazardous waste before disposal. If the used oil is hazardous, you must also comply with the [hazardous waste rules](#) (e.g., proper labeling, storage, disposal, etc.). To avoid being subject to the hazardous waste rules, you must send your used oil to a recycling facility. Recycling is the best option.

Can I pick up other wastes such as spent solvents from my customers?

No. If you pick up spent solvents or other wastes from your customers, you'll likely meet the definition of a hazardous waste transporter. In addition, you are not allowed to pick up any hazardous waste and take it back to your business location. Doing so would make you subject to the hazardous waste permitting requirements. In addition, you could face violations and penalties for illegally storing hazardous waste.

After I change the oil, can I leave it with my customer?

Yes, you can leave used oil with your customer if they agree to take responsibility for it. However, you are considered a co-generator and share responsibility for the used oil. Therefore, it's important that you know the used oil will be properly managed by a recycling or disposal company.

My local oil change shop collects used oil. Can I take used oil there?

If the shop is registered with Ohio EPA as a used oil collection center, you can take your used oil there. If you transport less than 55 gallons at a time, you do not need to register as a used oil transporter. You should contact the used oil collection center ahead of time to confirm that they will accept your used oil.

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Can I burn the used oil in a space heater at my business?

Yes. Generators can **burn used oil in a space heater** if all the following conditions are met:

- you burn only used oil from your business;
- your heater has a maximum capacity of not more than 0.5 million BTU per hour; and
- all combustion gases from the heater are vented outside.

If you want to burn used oil in something other than a space heater (e.g., a boiler or industrial furnace), additional requirements may apply.

Can I take used oil filters from my customers?

Yes, you can take used oil filters from your customers. However, there are specific requirements that apply to filters.

Under Ohio EPA's used oil rules, you do not need to handle used oil filters as hazardous waste, provided the filters are not terne-plated (meaning they come from light duty cars and trucks) and they are properly drained. Ohio's used oil rules outline the acceptable methods for "hot-draining" filters. Any oil drained from the filters must be managed in compliance with the used oil rules. Acceptable hot draining methods include:

- **Gravity Draining:** The filter is placed gasket-side down in a drain pan. If the filter has an anti-drain valve, the "dome end" of the filter is punctured so oil can flow freely. The filter needs to drain for at least 12 hours.
- **Crushing:** The filter is crushed by a mechanical, pneumatic, or hydraulic device to squeeze out the used oil and compact the remaining filter material.
- **Disassembly:** The filter is separated into its different parts using a mechanical device. This allows most of the used oil to drain from the filter, and the metal, rubber, and paper to be recycled separately.



IMPORTANT

Don't throw undrained oil filters in the trash.
Note: Terne-plated filters are used more commonly with heavy-duty vehicles such as buses and trucks. They can be hazardous because of lead. Don't take these types of filters back to your business unless you plan to drain them and send them to a scrap metal recycler.

Once you have drained non terne-plated filters, you can send them to a scrap metal recycling facility or dispose of them with your other solid waste. Make sure to properly drain your filters using one of the methods described above. Don't throw undrained oil filters into the trash.

Are there any other rules I should know about?

If your business involves other activities such as used oil marketing, blending, or reprocessing, additional rules apply. Contact DERR for more information.

All used oil spills must be cleaned up under the used oil rules. If you spill more than 25 gallons of oil, or if the spill causes a sheen on a waterway, you must also report it to Ohio EPA's **Office of Emergency Response** at (800) 282-9378.

Where can I get more help?

This fact sheet is a starting point to help you identify the rules that may apply to your mobile oil changing business. If you have questions about the used oil rules, contact DERR or your local **Ohio EPA district office**.

You can also contact Ohio EPA's **Office of Compliance Assistance and Pollution Prevention** (OCAPP) for help. OCAPP is a confidential, non-regulatory office with a goal of helping businesses comply with environmental regulations and permitting requirements. For more information, contact OCAPP at (800) 329-7518.

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Central Office

Lazarus Government Center
50 W. Town St., Suite 700
Columbus, OH 43215
(614) 644-3020

Central District Office

Lazarus Government Center
50 W. Town St., Suite 700
Columbus, OH 43215
(614) 728-3778
(800) 686-2330

Northwest District Office

347 N. Dunbridge Rd.
Bowling Green, OH 43402
(419) 352-8461
(800) 686-6930

Southeast District Office

2195 E. Front Street
Logan, OH 43138
(740) 385-8501
(800) 686-7330

Northeast District Office

2110 E. Aurora Rd.
Twinsburg, OH 44087
(330) 963-1200
(800) 686-6330

Southwest District Office

401 E. Fifth St.
Dayton, OH 45402
(937) 285-6357
(800) 686-8930

Toll-free numbers are for citizens with questions or concerns about environmental issues.

The regulated community should use the business line for routine business.

Spills and emergencies should be reported to (800) 282-9378.