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# Best Management Practices for Used Oil

## Off-Specification Used Oil Burners

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This document is one in a series of eight that provides guidance to safely manage used oil for those who generate, collect, burn, transport, process, re-refine or market used oil. This series does not replace the regulations found at WAC 173-303-515, but presents an overview of the used oil requirements. It is designed to answer questions regarding how the used oil is handled.

### What is Used Oil?

Used oil is any oil that has been refined from crude oil, or any synthetic oil, that has been used and as a result of such use is contaminated by physical or chemical impurities (WAC 173-303-040 and 40 CFR 279.10). For more information on how the state defines used oil see Ecology publication #06-04-00x, *Materials that may or may not be managed as used oil in Washington State* (<http://www.ecy.wa.gov/biblio/060400x.html>).

### What is Off-Specification Used Oil?

Off-specification used oil is used oil that exceeds any one of the following criteria:

- Arsenic: 5 parts per million (ppm)
- Cadmium: 2 ppm
- Chromium: 10 ppm
- Lead: 100 ppm
- A minimum flash point of 100° F.
- Or after passing the rebuttable presumption, still contains more than 4,000 ppm total halogens.

### What is an Off-specification Used Oil Burner?

A used oil burner is a facility that burns off-specification used oil for energy recovery in an industrial furnace, industrial boiler or a utility boiler.

### Management Requirements for Off-Specification Used Oil Burners

- Get a RCRA Identification number from Ecology.
- Check the total halogen content of the used oil by using test methods such as Chlor-D-Tect. If over 1,000 ppm it is assumed to be mixed with dangerous waste and no longer used oil.
- Store used oil only in tanks or containers and inspect them regularly.
- Keep storage units in good condition and non-leaking.
- Use secondary containment which is impervious to used oil.
- Label storage units and related pipes with “**Used Oil**.”
- Respond to spills by stopping, containing, and cleaning up the spill and making necessary repairs.

- Provide a written and signed certification to each source (generator, transporter, process, etc.) that the oil will be burned in an industrial furnace or boiler.

## Frequently Asked Questions

**Q** *As a burner of off-specification used oil, what records will I be required to keep?*

**A**

- Keep the following information from each client you accept used oil from:
  - Name and address of transporters who delivered the oil.
  - Names and addresses of who the oil came from (the sources).
  - All related RCRA ID numbers.
  - The quantity and date accepted or delivered.
- Keep test results and other information if the rebuttable presumption is used.
- Keep copies of all certifications.
- Keep all records on-site for at least three years.

**Q** *Can used oils containing PCBs be burned as “used oil?”*

**A** No. This is a specific state prohibition. However used oils with 2 ppm or more PCBs can be burned under the federal Toxics Substance Control Act (TSCA). Refer to 40 CFR 761.20(e).

**Q** *If I am a generator who burns my own off-specification used oil or Do It Yourself (DIY) used oil in my space heater, am I considered a “burner of off-specification used oil?”*

**A** No. This is a specific allowance for used oil generators.

**Q** *As a burner of off-specification used oil, do I need to notify Ecology?*

**A** Yes. If you also function as a used oil marketer, transporter, used oil processor or re-refiner you must notify Ecology as well.

**Q** *What if I only burn on-specification used oil, do I need to notify Ecology?*

**A** No, however you may be a marketer.