



You've probably heard the old saying that oil and water don't mix. Well, many people seem to be under the false impression that they do because they continue to dump used motor oil into ditches, trash cans and storm drains, which inevitably ends up in our waterways and, worst of all, in our drinking water.

In fact, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) believes that the largest single source of oil pollution impacting our nation's waters comes from do-it-yourselfers. That's why it's so important that you either take your used motor oil to a recycling center or take advantage of the City of Beaumont's curbside collection program.

Not only will you be helping to keep our water clean, you will also be helping to conserve energy. The oil you take to a recycling center can be reprocessed and used in furnaces for heat, or in power plants to generate electricity for homes, schools and businesses or made into lubricating oils. Processed motor oil can also be used in industrial burners, mixed with asphalts for paving, or blended for marine fuels. Recycling also serves to help us reduce our dependency on foreign oil imports.

So, the next time you change your oil, think before you pour it down the storm drain. You're not only hurting yourself but also future generations by improperly disposing of used motor oils. Recycle and save a valuable energy resource.

## Did You Know?

\*Used oil can be re-refined over and over again and is subject to the same stringent refining and performance standards as virgin oil.

- ◆ Recycling the motor oil from one oil change protects a million gallons of drinking water or a year's supply for 50 people.
- ◆ If one gallon of used motor oil is reprocessed and burned as fuel, it will generate enough electricity to power everything in your home for a day.
- ◆ Two gallons of used motor oil can provide enough electricity to...
  - Cook 48 meals in a microwave oven*
  - Blow dry your hair 216 times*
  - Vacuum your house for 15 months*
  - Watch television for 180 hours*

\*American Petroleum Institute

## Uses for Recycled Oil

According to the American Petroleum Institute each year processors treat approximately 750 million gallons of used oil. Seventy five percent of used oil is being reprocessed and marketed to:

- 43% Asphalt plants
- 14% Industrial boilers (factories)
- 12% Utility boilers (electric power plants for schools, homes, etc.)
- 12% Steelmills
- 5% Cement/lime kilns
- 5% Marine boilers (tankers or bunker fuel)
- 4% Pulp and paper mills
- 1% Commercial boilers (generating heat for schools, offices, etc.)

## Preparing Used Oil For Recycling

- ◆ Drain the oil into a pan that can hold twice the volume of oil in the crankcase. Do it when the oil is warm to ensure that any sludge flows out smoothly. Allow the oil to drain until it flows at a slow, intermittent drip.
- ◆ Replace the drain plug and move the oil pan to a location where you can safely pour the oil into a container. Wipe up any drips with a paper towel.
- ◆ Using a funnel, pour oil into a clean plastic bottle with a lid that screws on tightly. A plastic milk jug is recommended.
- ◆ Avoid plastic bottles once used for bleach, cleaners or other automobile fluids, such as antifreeze, which could contain residue that will contaminate the oil. Also, avoid paint cans and other metal containers or containers used for gasoline.
- ◆ Take your container of oil to a designated collection site in your area (Many service stations and oil change shops will accept used motor oil. NOTE: There may be a fee for this service.) or follow the City of Beaumont's curbside collection guidelines and save yourself a trip. (Guidelines are on back page.)

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## Collection Guidelines

Used motor oil and filters generated from "do-it-yourself" oil changes are collected from the curbside each garbage collection day. For a list of additional collection sites in Beaumont, visit [www.earth911.org](http://www.earth911.org).

Please follow these guidelines to ensure that your used motor oil is collected and recycled:

- ◆ Drain used motor oil into clear plastic or opaque white containers with screw on caps
- ◆ Never mix oil with other fluids. Any substance other than used motor oil will contaminate the oil.
- ◆ Make sure the cap is screwed on tightly to prevent spillage.
- ◆ Place gallon jugs at the curb on your recycling collection day (place jugs approximately 3 feet from the recycling bin and/or small yard waste ), OR
- ◆ Bring oil to one of the oil collection sites.
- ◆ Up to five (5) gallons of oil will be collected from each residence or from citizens bringing oil to collection sites.
- ◆ Empty used jugs will be returned.
- ◆ IN ADDITION, used oil filters will also be collected curbside and at the oil collection sites. Place oil filter in a plastic bag next to the oil for curbside collection or bring filter in a plastic bag to collection sites.



### **CITY OF BEAUMONT STORM WATER MANAGEMENT**

*For more information, contact:*  
**City of Beaumont  
Public Works Department  
(409) 880-3725**

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# Oil Recycling

*A Guide to Recycling Used Motor Oil*

