

5.8 Used Oil

Separating out used oil from other wastes disposed of at the landfill will help keep petroleum products out of the landfill and the environment.

What is used oil?

“Used oil” is any petroleum-based or synthetic oil that has been used for its intended purpose and is now contaminated with physical or chemical impurities.

How to manage used oil:

- Used oil should be collected and safely stored in a designated area instead of being disposed of in the landfill. The designated area should not be at the landfill.
- Once collected, the used oil can be burned for heat (energy recovery) or backhauled.

Storing used oil:

- Used oil should be stored off of the ground, in containers, and preferably covered so rain doesn't enter the containers.
- Used oil should be stored in secondary containment. This means the container of oil is placed into a container or an area designed or intended to contain any leaks or spills from the container. Spills and leaks can create a contaminated site that is expensive to clean up.



Storage drums for use oil.

Helpful tips:

- Smart Ash burners are not designed to burn straight used oil. A separate “oil away” attachment is designed to drip feed the oil into the unit while burning other items such as oily rags and absorbents.
- Used oil burners using locally-generated used oil can produce heat for non-residential structures like a shop building or garage. However, these burners require regular maintenance, and the oil often needs extra filtration to keep from plugging up the nozzle.

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- Used oil should not be used for starting the fire in the burn unit at the landfill as it will create a large amount of black smoke which is an Air Quality violation. The black smoke is what carries contamination outside of the landfill and into the community and the local environment.

Examples:



EPA approved used oil burner for energy recovery to heat community building.