



waste – can you handle it?

New rules on waste oils

This guide is for businesses producing waste oils. It explains how rules on waste oils will change, what they mean, and what you need to do with your waste oil in the future. The new rules give greater protection to the environment and health.

What this means for your business

At present waste oil collected in the UK is burnt as a fuel. However, environmental standards for using waste as a fuel are being tightened to reduce emissions when it is burnt. It's unlikely that current users of waste oil will be able to meet these standards. The market for waste oil is changing. This could result in producers of waste oil needing to pay more to get rid of it.

There is a legal Duty of Care placed on every business to make sure that the waste it produces is properly stored, described so it can be handled safely, and disposed of or re-used in an appropriate way.

Tipping oil down the drain is an offence – most drains connect to rivers and streams and oil is highly polluting and expensive to clear up. Even small quantities can have a serious impact on plants and wildlife. Uncontrolled burning of waste oil can put serious pollutants into the air. Penalties for these sorts of offences can be £20,000, or more in a crown court.

What you need to do

There will be little change for businesses that are already meeting their Duty of Care – apart from a potential increase in the disposal fee. To be sure you stay within the law you should follow these guidelines:

- Store oil securely in a container. We recommend a container with a bund that could contain 110% of the liquid in the tank. The bund should not have any drainage holes and should contain all pipework.
- Use a registered waste carrier to collect your waste oil. You should ask to see their certificate, or call the Environment Agency on 08708 506506 and ask for a waste carrier check.
- Waste oil is a hazardous waste. Producers of hazardous waste must register with us. Your waste contractor may be able to do this for you, or you can register with us directly using the contact details under [More information](#).

- There are strict requirements for disposing of hazardous waste. When waste oil leaves your premises it will have to be described for consignment, using a hazardous waste consignment note.

Classifying waste oil as a hazardous waste

All waste mineral oils are classed as hazardous and listed in a technical document called the European Waste Catalogue (EWC), which gives a code number to each type of waste. You will need to categorise your waste oil using one of the reference numbers below.

Your waste contractor will be able to assist you in this – they need to know the code so they can dispose of the waste correctly. For other codes, and to find out more call us on 08708 506506 or visit www.environment-agency.gov.uk/newrulesonwaste

12 01	wastes from shaping and physical and mechanical surface treatment of metals and plastics	13 02 08*	other engine, gear and lubricating oils
12 01 06*	mineral-based machining oils containing halogens (except emulsions and solutions)	13 03	waste insulating and heat transmission oils
12 01 07*	mineral-based machining oils free of halogens (except emulsions and solutions)	13 03 01*	insulating or heat transmission oils containing PCBs ¹
12 01 10*	synthetic machining oils	13 03 06*	mineral-based chlorinated insulating and heat transmission oils other than those mentioned in 13 03 01
13 01	waste hydraulic oils	13 03 07*	mineral-based non-chlorinated insulating and heat transmission oils
13 01 01*	hydraulic oils, containing PCBs ¹	13 03 08*	synthetic insulating and heat transmission oils
13 01 04*	chlorinated emulsions	13 03 09*	readily biodegradable insulating and heat transmission oils
13 01 05*	non-chlorinated emulsions	13 03 10*	other insulating and heat transmission oils
13 01 09*	mineral-based chlorinated hydraulic oils	13 07	wastes of liquid fuels
13 01 10*	mineral-based non-chlorinated hydraulic oils	13 07 01*	fuel oil and diesel
13 01 11*	synthetic hydraulic oils	13 07 02*	petrol
13 01 12*	readily biodegradable hydraulic oils	13 07 03*	other fuels (including mixtures)
13 01 13*	other hydraulic oils	13 08	oil wastes not otherwise specified
13 02	waste engine, gear and lubricating oils	13 08 01*	desalter sludges or emulsions
13 02 04*	mineral-based chlorinated engine, gear and lubricating oils	13 08 02*	other emulsions
13 02 05*	mineral-based non-chlorinated engine, gear and lubricating oils	13 08 99*	wastes not otherwise specified
13 02 06*	synthetic engine, gear and lubricating oils		
13 02 07*	readily biodegradable engine, gear and lubricating oils		

¹ For the purpose of this list of wastes, PCBs will be defined as in Directive 96/59/EC.

More information

- Our Oil Care campaign has more advice on how to store and dispose of oil safely. Visit www.environment-agency.gov.uk/oilcare
- To find out more about the new rules on hazardous waste and to register online visit www.environment-agency.gov.uk/newrulesonwaste or call us on 08708 506506.
- Envirowise offers small businesses a free and confidential 'FastTrack' waste minimisation audit. Its Environment and Energy helpline is free on 0800 585794 or visit www.envirowise.gov.uk
- Subscribe to our free monthly e-mail business newsletter. Email benews@environment-agency.gov.uk to sign-up.