

The Big Picture for Recycling Used Motor Oil

Scope of Issue

- One oil change – improperly disposed and not recycled – can contaminate one million gallons of fresh water, which is a year's supply for 50 people.*
- Oil recycling isn't just for cars; boat, lawnmowers, ATV's and other motorized equipment use oil that can be recycled.

Misconceptions

- FICTION: It is hard to recycle used motor oil.
- FACT: With two additional steps, you can rest easy and drop off your used motor oil at a recycling center.

- FICTION: It is hard to find a recycling center that will take used motor oil.
- FACT: There are more than 30,000 convenient recycling centers nationwide, and a majority of automotive shops and quick lube retailers will take used motor oil, if it is not contaminated with other fluids. The average do-it-yourself oil changer is less than two miles from the closest oil recycling center.

- FICTION: Recycling used motor oil costs money.
- FACT: Recycling centers do not require any payment for collection of used motor oil from individuals.

Facts on Issue

- Used motor oil is insoluble, slow to degrade and can contain heavy metals.
- Used motor oil can be a source of contamination in waterways and can result as pollution to drinking water sources.
- There are more than 30,000 community-based oil recycling locations such as auto parts stores, service stations or local government agencies across the nation that will assist you in recycling your used oil.
- Among popular recycling methods, respondents in a recent survey said they most often take their used oil to a local garage or retail outlet. The problem lies when those changing their oil are not recycling, as respondents said they tend to burn the oil or dispose of it with other trash.**
- For a recycling location nearest you, visit www.castrol.com/recycling or for information in Spanish and English call "1-800-CleanUp" (1-800-253-2687).

* *Environmental Protection Agency, Earth 911*

** *Results from Castrol's Motor Oil Recycling Behavior Research Survey, September 2007*