



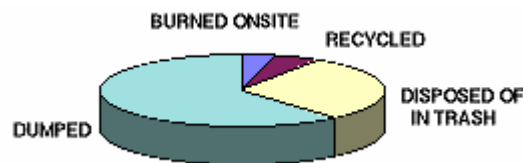
Recycling Used Oil & Antifreeze Reference Guide

The Largest Oil Spill In America May Be Occurring In Our Own Backyards. It's true: Every year, more than 220 million gallons of used motor oil are dumped into our environment by do-it-yourself oil changers. That's 20 times the amount of oil involved in the 1989 Valdez, Alaska, oil spill!

Of course, do-it-yourselfers don't mean to harm the environment. Most simply don't realize the damage they may be causing by not disposing of used oil properly.

Used Oil Generated By Do-It-Yourselfers. Where Does It Go?

4% Burned Onsite
5% Recycled
30% Disposed Of In Trash
61% Dumped



Direct dumping may be the number one means by which used oil, antifreeze, and other vehicle fluids are introduced into the environment but uncovered/overflowing storage containers, leaking automobiles, and vehicle accidents are also substantial contributors. Unfortunately, when exposed to the environment used oil and other vehicle fluids will either:

- 1) Seep into the soil, contaminating this soil and the groundwater for years to come.
- 2) Be transferred into a storm drain or directly into a creek or river. **The catch basins in Metro Nashville/Davidson County do not route water to the MWS sanitary waste treatment plant!** Instead, the storm drains within Davidson County are part of Metro's Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System (MS4). This MS4 includes all catch basins, roads, ditches, culverts, or parking lots that are designed to route **clean/unpolluted stormwater**, safely into the streams of Metro Nashville/Davidson County.

The NPDES division of Metro Water Services (MWS) has the specific task of monitoring all discharges into this MS4 for the purpose of maintaining the water quality of the streams within Metro Nashville/Davidson County. If not disposed of properly, used oil, antifreeze, and other vehicle fluids will enter the MS4 and be routed to a nearby stream. **These contaminants will then severely damage the stream and the aquatic life within it.** In fact, just one quart of used oil can produce a slick 2 acres wide on the surface of a body of water and this same one quart of oil can ruin the taste of 1 million gallons of water. Nearly all pollutant discharges into the MS4 and streams (including used oil, antifreeze, gasoline, and transmission fluid) are deemed "Illicit Discharges" and are illegal in Davidson County under Metro Code of Laws (Metro Code) §§ 15.64.205.

When performing maintenance/repair on your vehicle it is important to remember that:

- ❑ The only proper method of disposal for used motor oil, oil filters, and antifreeze is to recycle it at a used oil and antifreeze collection site. First, collect the oil or antifreeze in a clean container making sure not to spill any fluid on the pavement or soil, then bring the oil or antifreeze to your nearest [used oil and antifreeze collection location](#).
- ❑ Used vehicle fluids (motor oil, antifreeze, gasoline, brake or transmission fluid) and automobile batteries can also be taken to [Metro's Household Hazardous Waste Collection Facility](#) to be recycled/disposed of properly.

- ❑ It's important to clean up even small spills. Use an approved absorbent or cat litter to absorb the spill and then collect this material and dispose of in the trash.
- ❑ Performing routine maintenance on automobiles is important in assuring that leaks don't develop.

Most internal drains including floor drains, sinks, and toilets route waste directly to the sanitary treatment plant. **The pouring of used motor oil and other vehicle fluids down such a drain may damage the treatment plant and is therefore, also an illegal activity.** All discharges into sanitary lines/drains that route to a treatment plant are monitored by the Industrial Compliance Section of MWS and are regulated under Metro Code of Laws (Metro Code) §§15.60 "Industrial Waste Discharges". If you have questions, contact the MWS Industrial Compliance Office at (615) 862-4590.

Thank you very much for recognizing the importance of our streams as a valuable natural resource and your help in the protection and improvement of the streams within Metro Nashville/Davidson County.

This publication is a public service of:
Metro Water Services
NPDES Program
Storm Water Quality Control Team
1607 County Hospital Road
Nashville, TN 37218
Phone (615) 880-2420



Metro Water Services is in the process of complying with all appropriate Americans with Disabilities Act Guidelines. For additional information contact Joseph A. Estes, Sr., 1600 2nd Avenue North, Nashville, TN 37208-2206; telephone 615-862-4862.