



**MIDWEST**  
Environmental Services, Inc.

## Difference Between Used Oil & Waste Oil

Did you know there is a difference between used oil and waste oil? EPA inspectors find that used oil generators, in some cases, are incorrectly labeling their used oil as waste oil.

Midwest Environmental Services, Inc. notes that Hazardous waste regulations define “used oil” as any oil that has been refined from crude oil, or any synthetic oil that has been used and, as a result of that use, is contaminated by physical or chemical impurities. Examples of use oil can include: used motor oil, used hydraulic fluid, used transmission oil, used cutting oils and used coolants. Once you can no longer use the oil, you need to have it properly recycled by using facilities such as Midwest Environmental Services, Inc. owned and operated Used Oil Processors in Cincinnati, Ohio (Klor Kleen) and Charlestown, Indiana (Midwest Resource Recycling Center).

On the other hand, “waste oil” is off-specification product oil that you can’t use, or decide not to use, and want to dispose. This is oil that has never been used. Waste oil is not defined in the hazardous waste rules. Examples of waste oil can include bottom cleanout waste from product oil storage tanks, product oil spill cleanup or other oil wastes that have not been used. Additionally, waste oil must be evaluated to determine whether any hazardous waste characteristics apply prior to disposal.

For more information regarding used oil and waste oil contact a Midwest Environmental Services, Inc. representative at 800-388-5160.

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