



MIDWEST Environmental Services, Inc.

Midwest Environmental Services – Used Oil Filters

Did you know the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) considers non-terne plated used oil filters that have been hot-drained, crushed, and recycled as scrap metal excluded from hazardous waste regulation. Any used oil drained, should be managed at a minimum, using federal management standards (40 CFR Part 279) designed to encourage recycling of used oil.

Three methods of hot-draining, after bringing the engine up to normal operating temperature and removing the filter:

Gravity Draining: When the filter is removed from the engine, it should be placed with its gasket side down in a drain pan. If the filter has an anti-drain valve, the dome end of the filter should be punctured with a screwdriver or similar device so that oil can flow freely. Allow the filter to drain for at least 12 hours.

Crushing: Crush the filter using a mechanical, pneumatic or hydraulic device to squeeze out the used oil and compact the remaining filter materials.

Disassembly: Separate the filter into its different parts using a mechanical device. This allows most of the used oil/fuel to drain from the filter, and the metal, rubber and paper parts of the filter to be recycled separately.

Most automobile oil filters are non-terne plated while industrial filters and other types may be terne plated. It is important to know whether the filters you manage are terne plated or non-terne plated. Terne plated used oil filters are made from a mixture of lead and tin, which could cause the filters to exceed established characteristic hazardous waste levels for lead (5.0 mg/L).

If used oil filters are not properly hot-drained and/or they are terne plated, you must properly evaluate and determine the filters are non-hazardous before disposal.

To learn more about recycling and other alternatives to disposal, please contact Midwest Environmental Services, Inc.

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