

## **Research for Used Oil and Household Hazardous Waste Outreach Strategy**

### Research Background

There is concern that Do-It-Yourself Oil Changers (DIYers) pour used oil down storm drains. While we currently do not have specific evidence regarding how much of a problem this is in Rhode Island, the RIDEM website states that “used motor oil is a large source of the pollution in our state’s waterways” and that “every year, Rhode Island do-it-yourselfers discard an estimated 1.4 million gallons.” We do not know where the oil is discarded. Used oil is often grouped with other household hazardous wastes, so the two are treated together in this strategy, where appropriate.

### Review of National Efforts

RI NEMO undertook a review of used oil disposal and recycling programs throughout the country, using information from the U.S. EPA Digital NPS Outreach Toolbox, the NPS Information Exchange Digest listserv, and general internet searching. While there are a plethora of examples of print, radio and TV ads that target the problem of dumping used oil down storm drains, most of these efforts have not been evaluated. We have noted sources below for outreach examples (keeping in mind the uncertainty about their effectiveness), as well as a few strategies that go beyond or enhance outreach, employed by communities across the nation.

### An Overview of Existing Outreach Examples

Since we were unable to find outreach examples that had been evaluated for effectiveness, we have listed below two outstanding sources for outreach examples. Examples can easily be selected based on perceived creativity and audience appeal. There are examples attached at the end of this document.

The California Integrated Waste Management Board website:

<http://www.ciwmb.ca.gov/publications>

EPA Digital NPS Outreach Toolbox:

<http://www.epa.gov/nps/toolbox>

### Strategies for Addressing Used Oil Disposal

The following are approaches that enhance the goal of reducing improper used oil disposal but are distinctive from, or to be conducted in addition to, outreach:

 Increase collection opportunities

City of Grand Prairie, TX- They also posted the latest collection event in their utility bill inserts, with the note “Used Oil Accepted,” produced a cheap magnet with list of businesses that accept used oil, and increased inspection of automotive businesses to yearly to enforce proper disposal.

🌐 Increase convenience of collection

🌐 Target outreach at the source (i.e. where DIYers buy their oil)

Northern VA- Northern VA Regional Commission worked with state delegates to pass a law that required significant retailers of motor oil to post “Point-of-sale” advertising to let customers know where they could take used motor oil. That state also maintained a toll-free Used Oil Recycling Hotline number and tracked calls as well as volume of oil collected from collection centers.

🌐 Provide grants to local governments and nonprofits for research and demonstration projects

The City and County of San Francisco Department of Environment issued a grant for 2007 to do community-based outreach to increase proper disposal of used motor oil. A total of three grants will be awarded, each not to exceed \$20,000.

🌐 Research used oil disposal behavior in the community before conducting outreach

California Integrated Waste Management (contracting SFSU) conducted a statewide telephone survey of approximately 3800 individuals. The goals of the survey were to : estimate DIY oil changing; estimate improper disposal of used oil; describe DIYers and improper disposers; find out how to reach them; address the problem of underreporting improper disposal in surveys; examine barriers and incentives for proper disposal. The full report is available at: <http://pri.sfsu.edu/reports/CIWMB%20Version.pdf>

🌐 Pass oil recycling ordinances/acts

See Northern VA above in “Target outreach at the source.”

California Integrated Waste Management- California Oil Recycling Enhancement Act is a law that requires oil manufacturers to pay \$0.16 to the Board for each gallon of lubricating oil sold in CA. Registered industrial generators, curbside collection programs, and certified collection centers are eligible to receive \$0.16 for each gallon of used lubricating oil recycled.

🌐 Target boating, if applicable

## Proposed Approach

The selected approach focuses on publicizing opportunities for proper disposal of household hazardous waste (HHW) and used oil. Used oil was grouped with HHW because the strategy is similar, namely producing awareness of proper disposal options. Municipalities are asked to coordinate with the Rhode Island Resource Recovery Corporation (RIRRC) regarding publicity. Additionally, a focused outreach effort to marina operators that allow boat owners to work on their own boats will also be conducted focusing on educating this population on how to properly dispose of HHW.

**Examples of existing materials.  
Poster**



Pamphlet targeting teen drivers

**Recycling Used Motor Oil Is Easy.**

It's easy to recycle used motor oil and protect human health and the environment. Just follow these three steps when you (or your parents) change the oil in your car.

- 1** Remove. Do not spill any oil on the ground.
- 2** Contain. Put your used oil in a clean plastic container with a tight lid. Never use a container that once contained household chemicals, food, or beverages. And, do not mix the oil with anything else, such as paint, gasoline, solvents, cleaners, or antifreeze.
- 3** Recycle. Take used motor oil to a service station, lube center, or automotive store that collects used motor oil for recycling, during posted business hours. To find used oil collection centers in your area, call 1 800-CLEANUP or visit <www.cleanup.org> or look for used oil recycling signs, or the oil drop symbol, in store windows.



EPA's Environmental Protection Agency, 1200 Pennsylvania Ave., NW, Washington, DC 20460

**EPA**  
 Environmental Protection Agency  
 1200 Pennsylvania Ave., NW  
 Washington, DC 20460  
 Office of Pollution Prevention and Toxics  
 1200 Pennsylvania Ave., NW  
 Washington, DC 20460  
 www.epa.gov

**Recycle Your Used Motor Oil**

Now that you have your driver's license, you have a big responsibility—not only for safely operating your car, but also for protecting the environment. You probably know that you should change your oil about every 3,000 miles. But did you ever wonder what you should do with the used motor oil after you remove it from your car?

**Why Should You Recycle Used Motor Oil?**

Used oil is insoluble and can contain toxic chemicals and heavy metals. It's slow to degrade and sticks to everything from beach sand to bird feathers, polluting drinking water sources and harming humans, wildlife, and aquatic life.



**Why Is Recycling Used Motor Oil Important?**

Motor oil has a life after it has been in your car. It can be cleaned and processed to be reused as motor oil or as a different product, such as fuel for your house. Reprocessed motor oil also can be used in power plants to generate electricity for homes, schools, and businesses. It can also be mixed with asphalt for paving streets and highways.



Despite these problems, people who change their own motor oil—called "do-it-yourselfers"—dispose of nearly 120 million gallons of recyclable motor oil each year by dumping it on the ground, pouring it down storm drains, or putting it in trash cans. The improper disposal of used motor oil from a single oil change can contaminate a million gallons of fresh water. That's a year's supply of water for 50 people!

**What Else Can You Do?**


**Purchase re-refined oil.** When it's time for an oil change, purchase re-refined oil or find a service station that uses it.

**Join or start a community used oil recycling program.** If your community has a used oil recycling program, join it. If it doesn't, start one. Order a copy of EPA's manual entitled "How To Set Up a Local Program To Recycle Used Oil" (Doc # EPA530-SW-89-039A) at <www.epa.gov/epaoswer/osw/pub-h> or contact the RCRA Call Center toll-free at 1 800-424-9346 (703 412-9810 in the Washington, DC area).

For more information on managing used motor oil, visit EPA on the Web at <www.epa.gov/oswer/hazwaste/usedoil/index.htm>.

Disposal location information:

## Automotive Waste Recycling and Recovery Services for Citizens of Grand Prairie




(X) ACCEPTS

FACILITY	USED OIL	OIL FILTERS
Auto Zone 2105 Highway 360 817-649-3594	<b>X</b>	
Auto Zone 324 Highway 303 East Pioneer Parkway 972-642-8882	<b>X</b>	
Auto Zone 730 South Carrier Parkway 972-642-7709	<b>X</b>	
O'Reilly Auto Parts 417 West Pioneer Parkway 972-264-2377	<b>X</b>	
O'Reilly Auto Parts 605 North Carrier Parkway 972-237-9846	<b>X</b>	<b>X</b>
Pep Boys Auto Supercenter 424 East Highway 303 972-262-0003	<b>X</b>	<b>X</b>
Texaco Xpress Lube 913 Hill Street 972-262-3949	<b>X</b>	<b>X</b>
Wal-Mart Supercenter 2225 I-20 West 972-623-0627	<b>X</b>	<b>X</b>

*This list is not all-inclusive and some facilities may charge a small fee for services or limit amounts accepted. Please call first, hours of operation and materials accepted by a facility may change. Please do not mix oil with other automotive fluids.*

Print Ads




**Reduce your wasteline.**

**PUT HOUSEHOLD HAZARDOUS WASTE WHERE IT BELONGS.**

Antifreeze, household cleaners, gasoline, pesticides, oil paints, solvents, used motor oil.... Improper disposal allows these items to seep into our river and groundwater. So the next time you're spring cleaning or on the move, do the right thing. Instead of in the trash or down the drain, call your local county environmental health agency for disposal guidelines and services. (Livingston: 517-545-9609. Monroe: 734-240-7670. Oakland: 248-858-1312. Washtenaw: 734-971-7356. Wayne: 734-326-3936.)

**Small actions** make a **big difference.** It's that simple.



A partnership of the Huron River Watershed Council, USEPA and MDQG.  
Want more information? Call 734-269-9123 for a free tip card,  
or check our website at <http://connect.org/HRWC>.

Print Ads



Not all water pollution comes from big factories – it's also caused by little household chores. Like washing off paint, cleaning with products that contain chlorine bleach, using drain cleaners, and disposing of solvents such as stain removers or turpentine in the sink.

So please, dry off excess paint with a paper towel before rinsing. Avoid cleaning products marked "Poison" and "Danger," choosing environmentally friendly products instead. And drop off toxic chemicals at your local hazardous waste center.

Your rivers are closer than you think – thanks for keeping them safe.

To find out more go to  
[riversmart.org](http://riversmart.org).



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