

Do-it-yourself auto maintenance and repair can save you time and money, but you should be careful with used motor oil, dirty oil filters, antifreeze, dead batteries and other automotive wastes. Handled or discarded improperly, they can pose serious risks to your health and environment. That's why the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection (MassDEP) and the Town of Wilmington wants to help you do the right thing.

Used Motor Oil should always be recycled - never thrown in the trash, dumped on the ground, or poured into the sewer or down the drain. Used oil contains heavy metals, which can contaminate water supplies and harm eco-systems. And it doesn't take much to do a lot of damage. One gallon of used oil can pollute one million gallons of drinking water. One pint can produce an oil slick the size of a football field.

After changing your own oil, remember to recycle. You can bring used motor oil less than 5 gallons to the Wilmington DPW garage, 135 Andover Street, Monday thru Friday from 6:30 am to 3 p.m. This is a collection program in our community, please take advantage of it. Or, take the oil back to where you bought it. Whoever sold it to you is required by Massachusetts law to take back up to two gallons of your used oil per day, without charge, provided you still have the sales receipt. Some stores and gas stations will accept your oil even if you didn't buy it from them. When blended with other fuels, used motor oil can be used to generate electricity or steam. For help in finding a collection center near you, call the MassDEP Used Oil Hotline at 617-556-1022.

Dirty Oil Filters can be tossed in the trash so long as you take the proper precautions. First, remove any remaining oil by puncturing the filter and letting it drain over a container. Then add the recovered oil to the oil you previously drained from your engine. Finally, wrap the filter carefully in a rag or paper towel and throw it away.

Every May the Town of Wilmington holds their annual "Household Hazardous Waste Day" Residents can dispose of many house hold hazards including motor oil, tires and paints, etc.