



INDUSTRIAL WASTE RESOURCE GUIDELINES – CLASSIFICATION FOR REUSE

OIL FILTERS

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INTRODUCTION

To achieve the best environmental outcome, used oil filters have been classified by EPA because there are recycling opportunities for the waste oil, metal filter casing, and cardboard filter materials.

Used oil filters are predominantly automotive filters generated by the motor vehicle repair and service industry and from domestic 'do-it-yourself' vehicle servicing. Used oil filters also come from other vehicles and equipment, such as lawn mowers, earth-moving equipment and motorcycles. Only used oil filters from industrial sources are considered under this classification.

Disposal of liquid wastes to any type of landfill is prohibited in Victoria. Given the significant amount of waste oil remaining in a drained filter (around 30 per cent by weight), used oil filters are not permitted to be disposed to any landfill.

IMPLEMENTATION

In Victoria, oil filters can be recycled by separating the oil from the metal casing and sending both the metal and oil to recyclers to be made into new products.

Used oil filters must be cleaned prior to recycling. They are considered clean if they do not contain free oil. The removal of oil is generally achieved through a combination of draining, crushing, pressing, puncturing, dismantling, shredding and washing. Other processes may be used to achieve an equivalent outcome.

Filters that are only drained and/or crushed using a low pressure crusher generally have free oil and produce scrap metal of inconsistent quality that is considered unsuitable for metal recycling. Further processing, such as washing or high-pressure crushing to remove oil, will be necessary to ensure appropriate recycling rates.

WHAT THIS MEANS FOR YOU

EPA recognises that different regions across Victoria will have varying capacities to meet these requirements. Please search the Industrial Waste Database to find businesses that can transport or receive oil filters:

www.epa.vic.gov.au/waste/iwdb/default.asp or contact EPA for more information.

Generators:

- must prepare used oil filters for recycling by draining them and then segregating them by type and size.
- must have an approved EPA transporter collect them.

Transporters:

- must transport these wastes in permitted vehicles and ensure that the waste is properly contained and handled to prevent any leaks
- must transport waste to a licensed facility, or one that has an exemption or notification issued by EPA, to undertake recycling of used oil filters
- may apply to EPA for exemption from the requirement to use transport certificates.

Receivers:

- must undertake recycling of used oil filters
- must gain a works approval from EPA and be licensed, or have an exemption or notification issued by EPA, for the recycling of used oil filters.

General

Used oil filters must be managed in accordance with the classification, the requirements of the *Environment Protection Act 1970*, and the *Environment Protection (Industrial Waste Resource) Regulations 2009*.

This guidance forms part of the Industrial Waste Resource Guidelines (IWRG), which offer guidance for wastes and resources regulated under the *Environment Protection (Industrial Waste Resource) Regulations 2009* (the Regulations). Publication IWRG423 – June 2009.

FURTHER INFORMATION

Government Gazette No. G14, 5 April 2007: Prescribed Industrial Waste Classification.

Environment Protection Act 1970

ACT NO. 8056/1970

Industrial waste management policy (Prescribed Industrial Waste)

No. G14, 5 April 2007

Prescribed Industrial Waste Classification

1. For the purpose of clause 11(1) and in accordance with Schedule 1 of the *Industrial waste management policy (Prescribed Industrial Waste)* the Authority hereby classifies used oil filters as having currently available¹ opportunities for recycling in the State of Victoria.
 2. The classification applies to used oil filters, prescribed as 'waste oils unfit for their original intended use' in Part B Schedule 1 of the *Environment Protection (Prescribed Waste) Regulations 1998*.
 3. For the purposes of this classification, a used oil filter is a filter that has been used to remove debris from the lubricating oil in an engine. The filter is a paper or synthetic media that is contained in a steel enclosure. Only those used oil filters from industrial sources are classified as prescribed industrial waste under the *Environment Protection (Prescribed Waste) Regulations 1998*.
 4. This classification will come into effect on 1 July 2007.
- ¹ **Currently available:** The prescribed industrial waste has potential for reuse, recycling or recovery of energy and such reuse, recycling or recovery of energy is practicable. This means that the facilities required to realise this potential are available in the State of Victoria, or elsewhere in Australia in a location practicably accessible.