



Storage and disposal requirements for generators of used oil

The ROSE Foundation (Recycling Oil Saves the Environment) has been championing the responsible collection and removal of used oil for proper recycling since 1994. Bubele Nyiba, CEO of the ROSE Foundation offers some practical advice.

Used oil is a common by-product of mechanised processes in all industry sectors, and because of its harmful properties it is classified as a hazardous waste. Used lubricants contain harmful compounds and carcinogens that can easily contaminate the environment, especially if thrown down drains, into landfills or onto the ground.

As a hazardous substance, used oil is strictly governed by environmental laws and its storage and disposal must meet the requirements of the Waste Act.

Registering on SAWIS

Anyone generating more than 20 kg of used oil per day is required to register on the South African Waste Information System (SAWIS).

Once registered, the generators need to submit their figures every 90 days (quarterly) into the SAWIS. The information needs to be based on actual volumes and not estimates. The following information needs to be sub-

mitted and retained by the waste generator for five years and produced for inspection, when required:

- The month and year to which the information applies.
- The category of waste; HW07 Waste Oils O1 Waste oil.
- The source from which waste comes.
- The quantity of waste reported in tons.

**ONE LITRE OF USED OIL
CAN CONTAMINATE ONE
MILLION LITRES OF WATER**

Hazardous Waste Manifest with every load

As used oil is classified as hazardous waste, generators are required to maintain the below information on a Hazardous Waste Manifest, a document that will track the used oil from cradle to grave and offer a clear snapshot on how it has been managed.

- A unique consignment identification number.
 - The generator's contact details, including the contact person, physical and postal address, phone and fax number and email address.
 - The physical address of the site where the waste was generated.
 - An emergency contact number.
 - The origin/source of the waste (how it was generated).
 - A description of the waste (waste classification and waste category).
 - The physical nature/consistency of the waste (liquid, solid, sludge; pump-able, non-pump-able).
 - The quantity of waste.
 - Packaging (bulk, small containers, tank).
 - Transport type (tanker, truck, container).
 - Special handling instructions.
 - The date of collection / dispatch.
 - The intended receiver (waste manager).
- For more information visit <http://sawic.environment.gov.za/>

The proper collection and storage of used oil

Used oil can find its way into our water table through disposal in drains and stormwater drains and by being poured directly onto the ground as either a dust suppressant or as a means of disposal.

To prevent this, oil should be drained into a clean container with a tight-fitting lid, such as a reusable combination drain pan/storage container. Use a specially designed plastic Sumpo or container to collect and store your used oil.

Ensure that you store the oil in a container with a secure lid so that it cannot spill out. Empty oil containers and drums make effective makeshift storage vessels for used oil, however, do not use a container that previously held chemicals, such as cleaners, solvents, fuels, paint or bleach. Always clearly label the container: 'Used -Lube Oil', for example.

Keep these containers in a place that can be accessed by a ROSE registered used oil collector and keep the surrounding area clear and clean. Ideally store them under cover and away from heat or sources of ignition. Very small volumes of used oil can be dropped off at most vehicle service centres, as they have used oil storage facilities on their premises.

Keep oil change pans free of water and ensure your storage containers are tightly sealed and covered to protect them from rainwater. Oil that is contaminated with water is far more difficult to recycle – requiring several laborious and costly processes to separate the water from the oil before it can be recycled.



Oil should be drained into a clean container with a tight-fitting lid, such as a reusable combination drain pan/storage container.

Ensure that you do not mix used oil with other fluids such as antifreeze, transmission fluid, petrol, diesel etc. Mixing them may make them non-recyclable as well as very hazardous and flammable.

Build a bund wall around your bulk used oil storage tanks so that in the event of a spill or leak, the used oil will be contained. In the event of an oil spill, contact your used oil collector or a HAZCHEM specialist.

Used oil collectors

Used oil generators are urged to gather and store their used oil for responsible collection by a ROSE registered oil collector who will come and remove the oil and take it to be

recycled in an environmentally compliant and safe manner. Your collector must always issue you with a safe disposal certificate, which is now required by law under the Waste Act.

This safe disposal certificate issued by ROSE registered collectors also acts as a Hazardous Waste Manifest, thereby fulfilling the legal reporting requirements, and the same information can be used on SAWIS.

Most importantly, make sure that your used oil collector is licensed and registered by ROSE, as this ensures that the collectors are compliant with all waste transportation legislation and are strictly managed and audited – further ensuring your compliance as a waste generator. □

Shortcuts add to SA's environmental challenges

Averda, one of South Africa's largest waste management providers, develops strategies with its clients that enable them to divert significant portions of their waste away from landfills. This includes a rebate system to incentivise recycling.

Unlike many developed countries around the globe that operate within a regenerative system called a 'circular economy', South Africa only recycles 10% of its waste. Pollution, global warming and resource scarcity have led to the rise of circular economies, which focus on the repurposing and reuse of products that would typically be destined for landfills. However, due to several factors, South Africa still employs a predominantly linear or 'take-make-dispose' approach. Considering that most of our waste is destined for landfills, the promotion of responsible disposal practices remains crucial for environmental sustainability.

According to Averda, one of South Africa's largest waste management providers, underpricing in the industry is a significant barrier

to the development of green waste management solutions. This is compounded by a high number of unlicensed or non-compliant waste handlers, who undercut prices by skirting legislative requirements.

Reg Gerber, national landfill manager at Averda South Africa says: "Reputable waste management companies often guide their clients on how to reduce waste. At Averda, we develop strategies with our clients that enable them to divert significant portions of their waste away from landfills. This includes a rebate system to incentivise recycling. However, when disposal is necessary, reputable providers can be trusted to ensure that this is managed responsibly."

The construction and management of landfill facilities are subject to strict governmental regulation that seeks to reduce their

environmental impact. When consumers employ unlicensed or non-compliant providers, they have no control over where their waste ends up, which is bad for the environment.

Mismanaged landfills and dumps present many risks to the environment including air pollution and groundwater contamination. When rain falls on landfill sites, the organic and inorganic constituents are dissolved, forming a leachate, which can contain toxic metals such as ammonia, organic compounds and pathogens. Any leakage can result in groundwater contamination.

To prevent contamination, Averda's landfill facilities are built with containment barriers designed according to the strictest legislative requirements. Barriers include a leachate collection layer that traps the contaminant, preventing it from reaching groundwater supplies. As part of the management process, waste is sorted and treated, so that it can be disposed of in a facility that has been designed to



Averda Healthcare Services offers fully integrated, end-to-end healthcare waste management that includes certified containers, safe transport, and disposal.

mitigate its specific environmental risks.

Gerber adds, "Averda has a number of landfill sites that are designed and managed to deal with specific waste streams. Our site in Vlakkfontein, for example, is a Highly Hazardous, Class 1 Landfill site, which is South Africa's only landfill to be constructed to the standards prescribed by the new Waste Classification and Management Regulations for Class A containment barriers.

In accordance with legislation, Averda continues to monitor its facilities for 30

years after closure. "We develop a closure plan prior to the development of our landfill sites. This is essential to ensure we have the resources required to monitor and maintain our facilities on an on-going basis following their closure," explains Gerber.

Properly managed landfill facilities are supposed to adhere to Minimum Requirements for Waste Disposal by Landfill as prescribed in government regulations that came into effect in 1998. The regulations include specifications regarding site selection, design standards, operational practices, closure processes and monitoring.

It's important for consumers to understand that sustainable behaviour not only requires reducing one's waste, but also includes responsible disposal methods. Employing reputable waste management providers ensures that the impact of waste is minimised and could also reduce underpricing in the industry, paving the way for sustainable waste management solutions.

Averda is a leading global waste management provider with operations throughout Africa, the Middle East and the UK. In 2016



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the company entered the South African market by acquiring stakes in a series of local waste management companies. Averda's core focus is providing a high-quality service that prioritises compliance within a stringent regulatory environment. Also offered are end-to-end waste management solutions, taking responsibility for every phase of the waste management process from sorting and collection to treatment and disposal. □