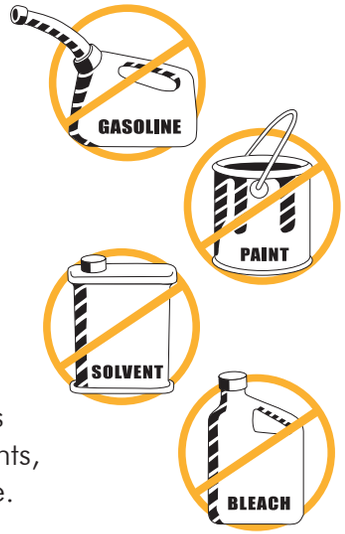
Recycling Used Motor Oil Is Easy.

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.

Recycled/Recyclable—Printed with Vegetable Oil Based Inks on 100% (Minimum 50% Postconsumer) Recycled Paper.

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United States
Environmental Protection Agency
Ariel Rios Building
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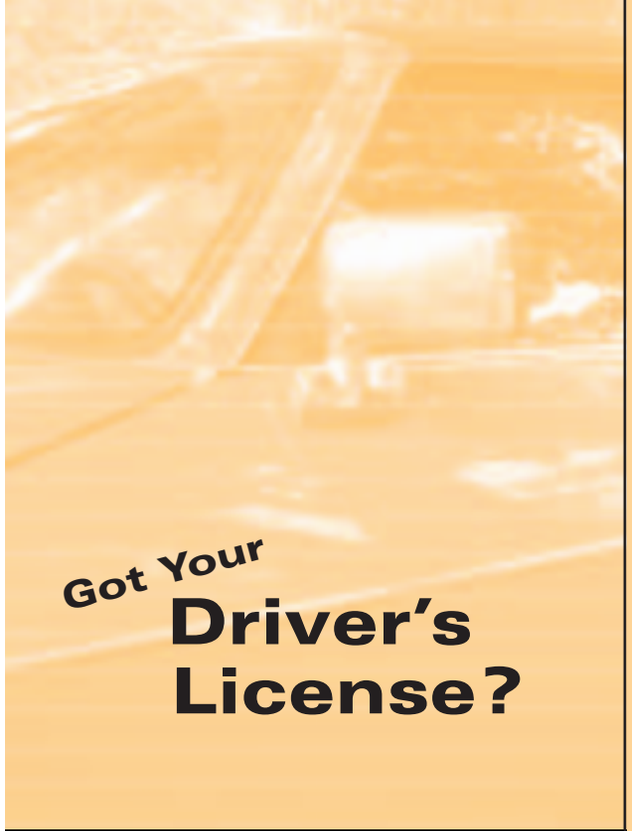

Got Your
Driver's License?

You Can Make a Difference

Recycling your used motor oil helps the environment, saves energy, and protects our drinking water.

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 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.

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.

Despite these problems, people who change their own motor oil—called "do-it-your-selfers"—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>**.