



Burning Used Oil

Idaho Department of Environmental Quality

Is the oil generated on-site by the burner or received from household do-it-yourselfers?

Generators may burn their own used oil (or oil received from household do-it-yourselfers) in space heaters provided the following conditions are met:

- The heater burns only used oil that the owner or operator generates and/or used oil received from household do-it-yourselfers.
- The heater is designed to have a maximum capacity of not more than 0.5 million Btu per hour.
- The combustion gases from the heater are vented to the ambient air.
- The generator MUST comply with 40 CFR § 279 subpart C (Standards for Used Oil Generators).

These requirements include prohibitions on the mixing of hazardous waste and proper storage of used oil (see brochure, “Your Guide to Idaho’s Regulations for Generators of Used Oil”).

Was the used oil accepted from sources other than household do-it-yourselfers as a fuel?

To qualify as on-specification used oil, the oil to be burned for energy recovery must be tested and cannot exceed any of the following limits per 40 CFR § 279.11.

| Constituent/Property | Allowable Level |
|----------------------|-----------------------|
| Arsenic | 5 ppm maximum* |
| Cadmium | 2 ppm maximum |
| Chromium | 10 ppm maximum |
| Lead | 100 ppm maximum |
| Flash point | 100 degrees F minimum |
| Total halogens | 4,000 ppm maximum** |

* ppm = parts per million

** Note that if the used oil contains greater than 1,000 ppm total halogens, you must successfully rebut the presumption that the used oil has been mixed with a hazardous waste before it can be marketed as on-specification used oil not subject to used-oil requirements. Additional requirements for the burning of used oil containing polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs) are imposed by 40 CFR § 761.20(e).

The specifications do not apply to mixtures of used oil and hazardous waste that continue to be regulated as hazardous waste (see 40 CFR § 279.10(b)).

If the used oil meets the specifications in the above table (40 CFR § 279.11) and you want to burn it for energy recovery...

The on-specification used oil burner must comply with the Used Oil Fuel Marketer Requirements (40 CFR § 279 Subpart H). These requirements include specific record-keeping procedures and tracking logs, notification requirements, and record of analyses. The brochure entitled, “Your Guide to Idaho’s Regulations for Marketers of Used Oil” contains the marketer responsibilities.

If you want to burn off-specification oil for energy recovery...

If the used oil does not meet the specifications in the table above (40 CFR § 279.11), see the brochure, “Your Guide to Idaho’s Regulations for Burners of Off-Specification Used Oil.” Equipment must meet the requirements of 40 CFR § 279.61, which includes reference to the standards for boilers and industrial furnaces. Space heaters do not meet the definition of boilers and industrial furnaces.

For more information about used oil, read the brochure series on Used Oil and call or write DEQ if you have any additional questions.

- *Your Guide to Regulations for Generators of Used Oil*
- *Your Guide to Regulations for Transporters of Used Oil*
- *Your Guide to Regulations for Marketers of Used Oil*
- *Your Guide to Regulations for Burners of Off-Specification Used Oil*

The regulations governing used oil fuel marketers are found in 40 CFR § 279 Subpart H. (IDAPA 58.01.05.015)