

## Used Oil Space Heaters



State of Oregon  
Department of  
Environmental  
Quality

### Hazardous Waste

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### General information [40 CFR 279.23]

Businesses, organizations, and other persons may burn used oil in on-site space heaters if:

- The heater burns only used oil that the owner or operator generates themselves or used oil received from do-it-yourself used oil generators; and
- The heater is designed to have a maximum capacity of not more than 0.5 million BTUs per hour; and
- The combustion gases are vented to the outside air; and
- The burner is operated following the manufacturer's specifications.

### Common questions:

#### What is a space heater?

A space heater is a unit designed specifically to burn oil for space heating purposes. Wood stoves and open burn barrels are not considered space heaters.

#### Do I need a permit for the space heater?

No permit is needed from DEQ if the unit meets the requirements of 40 CFR 279.23. We are not aware of any local requirements, but to be certain contact your local Fire Marshall, air pollution control authority, or building code department.

#### What if I own more than one business and want to burn used oil generated from one business location at another of my locations?

This is allowable as long as both operations are owned or operated by the same company /business/person. Check the used oil transporter factsheet for transportation requirements.

Owners of space heaters generally may burn only their own used oil, or oil from do-it-yourself used oil generators. However, used oil from another business or organization may be burned in your space heater if the oil meets certain specifications and proper records are kept. Specifically, to take someone else's used oil, the burner (yourself) or the generator (your used oil supplier) must test the oil and make sure the following specifications are met:

### Constituent/

Property	Allowable level
Arsenic	< 5 part per million
Cadmium	< 2 ppm
Chromium	< 10 ppm
Lead	< 100 ppm
Halogens	< 1000 * ppm
Flashpoint	< 100° F minimum

The actual halogens regulatory limit is 4000 ppm. However, if total halogens exceed 1000 ppm, the oil is presumed to be a hazardous waste unless proven otherwise. The 1000 ppm maximum is a preliminary limit, but exceeding it could prevent the oil from being burned in off-site space heaters.

- If oil from another business exceeds any of these specifications, it cannot be burned in your space heater. Instead, it must be managed as off-specification used oil and handled by a blending or burning facility with an EPA identification number.
- Keep copies of the test results for three years;
- Obtain an identification number from DEQ as a marketer. If you already have a DEQ hazardous waste identification number, complete a used oil notification form to identify your marketing activity; and
- For three years, keep a record of each shipment of used oil to the burner, including:
  - the name and address of the facility receiving the shipment,
  - the quantity of used oil delivered,
  - the date of shipment, and
  - a cross-reference to the test results showing the oil meets the specifications.

#### Does every batch of used oil need to be tested?

No. Test results need to be representative of used oil received. In general, as long as the process generating the used oil remains unchanged, the initial test may remain representative. If something in the process changes (i.e., servicing mostly heavy equipment instead of vehicles, using different cleaners which could end up in the oil, maintaining new vehicles instead of old ones), another test is likely needed.

**Ash from space heaters [40 CFR 261.3; 40 CFR 261.5]**

As with any other waste, you must complete a hazardous waste determination on the waste ash from the space heater. Ash determined to be a hazardous waste must be managed according to applicable hazardous waste management requirements.

**For more information**

Additional information is available in the following documents:

***DEQ Used Oil Transporter and Transfer Facility Factsheet***

***DEQ Used Oil Burner and Marketer Factsheet***

***DEQ Used Oil Regulations OAR 340, Division 111 (includes State used oil regulations) and 40 CFR, Part 279 (Federal used oil regulations)***

***40 CFR, Part 261 (Federal hazardous waste identification regulations)***

***OAR 340, Division 108 (State oil and hazardous material spill regulations)***

***40 CFR, Part 112 (Federal spill prevention, control, and countermeasures plan (SPCC) requirements)***

***40 CFR 716.20(e) (Federal PCB used oil requirements)***

**For more information on the management of used oil, contact the DEQ regional office nearest you:**

**Eastern Region**

Bend 541-388-6146  
Pendleton 541-276-4063

**Northwest Region**

Portland 503-229-5696

**Western Region**

Salem 503-378-8240  
Eugene 541-686-7838

**Alternative formats**

Documents can be provided upon request in an alternate format for individuals with disabilities or in a language other than English for people with limited English skills. To request a document in another format or language, call DEQ in Portland at 503-229-5696, or toll-free in Oregon at 1-800-452-4011, ext. 5696; or email [deqinfo@deq.state.or.us](mailto:deqinfo@deq.state.or.us).