

# Used Oil

## The Problem

“Used oil” is defined as any refined oil that has been used and/or contaminated with physical or chemical impurities including industrial oils, hydraulic oils, refrigeration oils, and more. According to [DTSC](#), California generates approximately 100 million gallons of used oil annually, with about 14 million of those gallons recycled out of state. Improper disposal of used oil has disastrous consequences for human health and the environment. The U.S. [EPA](#) reports that just one gallon of used oil can contaminate one million gallons of drinking water if disposed improperly.

## The Solution

Used oil is highly recyclable, with extensive laboratory testing proving that the recycled oil is equally as good, if not better than virgin oil. Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) laws have been essential in ensuring California residents have access to convenient used oil collection and recycling across the State. In 1991, AB 2076 (Sher) established the [California Oil Recycling Enhancement Act](#), requiring oil manufacturers to pay \$0.26 to CalRecycle for each gallon of lubricating oil they sold. The cost decreased to \$0.24/gallon on January 1, 2024.



On September 2009, [SB 546 \(Lowenthal\)](#) restructured the lubricating oil recycling fee and the used oil recycling incentive payment system. The bill streamlined used oil grant programs, promoting the production and use of re-refined oil, changed the used oil certified collection center program, and made various changes to the handling and management of used oil. Learn more by visiting the [CalRecycle Used Oil Webpage](#).

## Safely Dispose of Your Used Oil

- [CalRecycle](#) – Statewide
- [Earth 911](#) – Nationwide

## Research & Relevant Articles

- [Department of Energy Issues Report on Management and Beneficial Reuse of Used Lubricating Oil](#) – U.S. Department of Energy, 12/4/2020.
- [Environmental Impacts of Used Oil](#) – Material Science Research India, 6/15/2010

## Links

- [Check Your Number, Because 3,000 Miles May Be Too Early to Change Your Oil](#) – CalRecycle
- [Used Oil Publications](#) – CalRecycle
- [Managing Used Oil: Answers to Frequent Questions for Businesses](#) – U.S. EPA