



State of Utah  
Department of  
Environmental Quality  
Division of Solid and  
Hazardous Waste

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### Facts at a Glance

Each year the U.S. generates 425 million used automotive oil filters containing 160,000 tons of iron units and 18 million gallons of oil.

Recycling all the filters sold annually in the United States would result in the recovery of about 160,000 tons of steel, or enough steel to make 16 new stadiums the size of Atlanta's Turner Stadium.

Concentrations of 50 to 100 parts per million (ppm) of used oil can foul sewage treatment processes.

# The Used Oil Drip

Summer 2009

## 2008 Annual Used Oil Handlers Report Update

Review of the 2008 annual used oil handler reports submitted by Utah's 33 permitted used oil facilities was completed, reporting that more than 11.9 million gallons of used oil were collected by permitted used oil transporters. This total also includes Do-It-Yourselfer used oil dropped off by the public at free collection centers located throughout Utah. Of this total, 8.8 million gallons of used oil were collected from Utah generators and approximately 3.1 million gallons collected from out-of-state generators but recycled in Utah. Approximately 14.7 million gallons of used oil derived burner fuel were produced by Utah's permitted used oil processors—this total includes an additional 6.8 million gallons of diesel which were blended with the collected used oil. Approximately 79% of this locally processed used oil was sold as burner fuel to Utah facilities. Calendar year 2006 showed the highest amount of used oil collected and transported in Utah at 12.3 million. Since 2006, there has been a gradual decrease in the amount of used oil collected. For a more detailed discussion on current used oil market conditions, please refer to the article below.

Although the recycling of used oil filters is optional in Utah and not mandated, the Division requests this voluntary information be reported on the annual handlers report to understand how used oil filters are currently being handled in Utah. During 2008, more than 3.1 million used oil filters were collected in Utah for recycling at out-of-state facilities, almost twice the number of 1.8 million filters reported during 2007.

More detailed 2008 annual report information may be found on the Division's website at [www.hazardouswaste.utah.gov/permittedusedoilfacilities](http://www.hazardouswaste.utah.gov/permittedusedoilfacilities).

### **Economy May Be Impacting Used Oil Collection**

The current economic downturn appears to be having an impact on used oil collection as well as the hot mix asphalt (HMA) market, since most of the collected used oil is processed into burner fuel for asphalt plants. According to Jay Hansen, Vice President of Government Affairs for the National Asphalt Pavement Association, during a special presentation at the recent NORA annual summer meeting, HMA production has been going down steadily since 2004, from a high of 550 to 410 million tons. Approximately 65% of asphalt production is directed toward highway construction, with about 44% of the asphalt highway share being federal.

According to Mr. Hansen, the economic stimulus bill has been disappointing thus far. The Highway Trust Fund for 2009 is down by \$7 billion translating into less HMA being produced, thus less used oil being purchased for burner fuel. Various ideas are being discussed by Congress to increase the Fund by increasing fuel taxes, creating a vehicle miles traveled tax, and adding more toll roads. In addition to the economy, there are environmental issues and a movement toward a greener lifestyle, mass transit, and construction of more livable communities to reduce transportation miles which also influences HMA production. In the West, several large hot mix plant operations have switched fuels to natural gas due to falling natural gas prices. All of these factors may be contributing to the recent decrease in used oil collections and recycling in Utah as reflected in the annual handlers reports discussed above.

## KUDOS to Local Health Department's Used Oil Inspectors

The Division would like to acknowledge the efforts of local health department employees tasked with inspecting and assisting DIYer used oil collection centers and following up on complaints in their districts. The quality and thoroughness of inspection reports, including comments, pictures, collection of log sheets and scheduling follow up inspections where needed to resolve problems, demonstrate the dedication of the staff to proper management and recycling of used oil in Utah.

The success of the used oil program can also be contributed to the great working relationship between the local health department staff and Division personnel. The Division appreciates the effort put forth by all local health department staff - from those who have been around since the program began in 1993 and to recently hired employees. **THANK YOU!**

## Contaminated Used Oil and Old Gasoline Found at Four DIYer Collection Centers

During the past six months, the Division of Solid and Hazardous Waste's Used Oil Program has assisted four Do-It-Yourselfer (DIYer) used oil collection centers with the transportation of abandoned drums of old gasoline and contaminated used oil (greater than 1,000 ppm halogens) stored in DIYer used oil collection tanks.

Special arrangements had to be made for two DIYer used oil collection centers when it was determined that the used oil failed the total halogen field test kit and could not be picked up by a used oil transporter. This resulted in significantly higher transportation costs to the used oil program.

It is unknown if the contamination was caused by a DIYer who unknowingly mixed hazardous substances with the used oil prior to dropping the used oil off for recycling or if the contaminated material was intentionally dumped into the DIYer used oil storage tank at the collection centers after hours.

Please be reminded that all DIYer used oil collection centers are required to ensure that access to their used oil storage tanks is restricted from the public. If the used oil storage tank is outside, it should be inaccessible to the general public and should, at a minimum, have a lock on the pour funnel lid to prevent contamination by illegal dumping of hazardous waste, especially after business hours.

There were also two separate incidents of drums containing a petroleum-like substance that were dropped off at two different DIYer used oil collection centers. After sampling and analyses paid for by the Division, it was determined that the material in the drums was old gasoline. This material had to be handled appropriately and could not be collected by a used oil transporter. Fortunately, one drum of old gasoline was recycled locally, but the other drum was transported by a hazardous waste transporter at significant costs to the Used Oil Program.

Please remember to monitor your collection sites and only accept drums of used oil from farmers and ranchers. If drums are dropped off after hours and determined not to be used oil or the contents are questionable, please contact your local health department immediately so a determination can be made and appropriate action taken.

## DEQ Preparing to Move to New Building

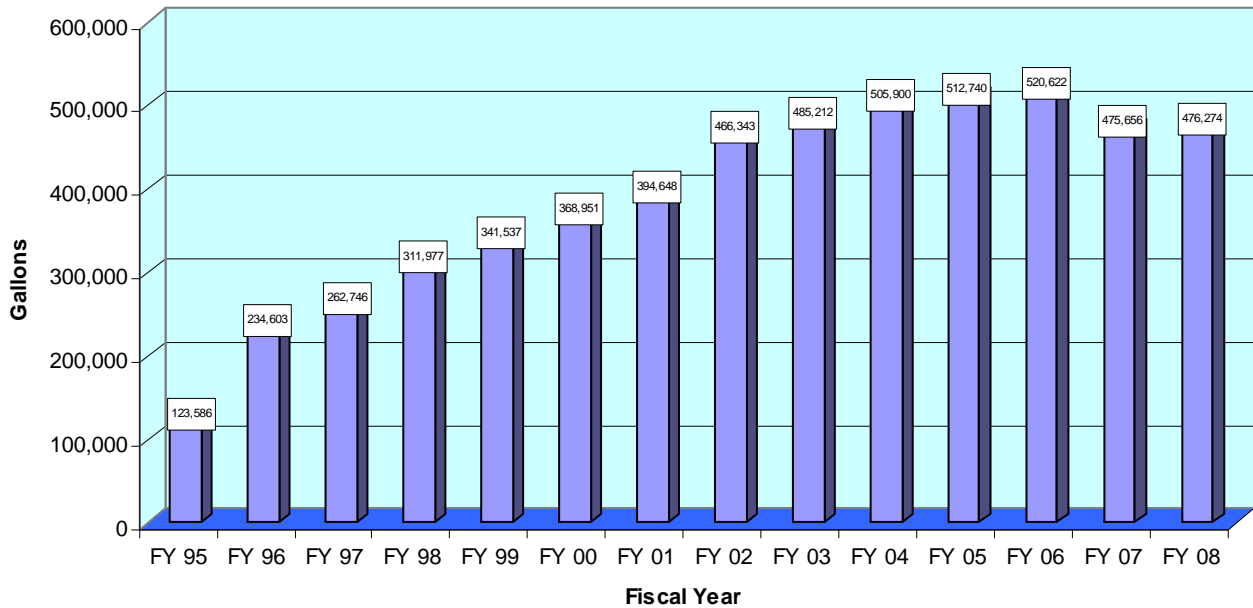
After many years of having the different divisions within the Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) located in separate buildings and locations, the Division of Solid and Hazardous Waste is preparing to move, along with all of the DEQ divisions. The new multi-agency office building located at 195 North 1950 West in Salt Lake City will be shared with the Department of Human Services (DHS). All DEQ divisions will be located in the south building, DHS will be in the north building and the two Departments will share a common entrance, lobby and cafeteria on the first floor.

The move for the DEQ divisions, which follows the DHS relocation into the new building, is anticipated to occur during the spring of 2010. We're looking forward to our new offices where we can better serve our customer's needs and provide "one-stop shopping." More detailed information will be provided on the DEQ website, [www.deq.utah.gov](http://www.deq.utah.gov), as we get closer to the move.

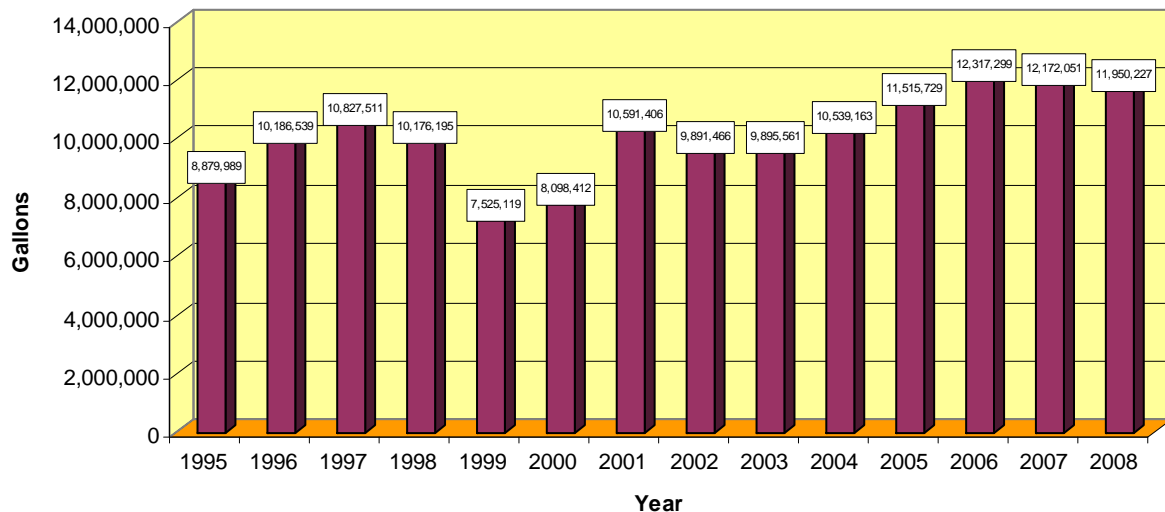
## Utah Used Oil Collection Update

As shown in the first chart, the reported do-it-yourselfer (DIYer) used oil collection totals for FY 07 and FY 08 are relatively even, having dropped somewhat from the high collection of FY 06. Both DIYer used oil and used oil collection from businesses are shown in the second chart, which is based on a calendar year since permitted used oil facilities are required to report on a calendar year basis. In 2008, DIYer used oil accounted for approximately 4-5% of the total quantity of used oil collected in Utah. The slight drop in used oil collections may be due to the down turn in the economy and less than favorable market conditions.

**Utah Do-It-Yourselfer Used Oil Collection**



**Total Utah Used Oil Collected  
(Includes DIYer Used Oil)**



# The Used Oil Drip



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## Used Oil Program Updates

The Division is considering coordinating another used oil workshop for local health departments and DEQ district engineers for the coming year. The last used oil training workshop was held almost three years ago in St. George, Utah in October 2006. Let us know if you have any suggestions or specific topics you would like to have covered so we can develop an agenda that will be beneficial to you and help make improvements to the used oil program.

Utah's used oil study to try and understand why reported laboratory analyses values for identical samples varied significantly from lab to lab was presented at the NORA 2008 mid-year meeting in Rhode Island and has now been published in the technical magazine, *Journal of ASTM International*. The results of the study, **Interlaboratory Bias and Uncertainty in the Analysis of Metals and Polychlorinated Biphenyls in Used Oil Samples**, is now available in *Journal of ASTM International*, Vol. 6. No. 3, Paper ID JAI101950, and published online at [www.astm.org](http://www.astm.org).

The Solid and Hazardous Waste Control Board approved a rule change for a 30-day public comment period at its June 2009 meeting to allow permitted hazardous waste incinerators to burn off-specification used oil for energy recovery through a permit-by-rule rather than having to obtain a separate off-specification used oil burner permit. No adverse comments were received during the 30-day public comment period. The Board approved the final rule at the August 13, 2009 meeting and established an effective date of September 1, 2009.

There have been some changes in the Used Oil Program since the last newsletter. Jay Richardson has since retired, however, the Division will not be filling his position. Sam Schroyer has also been assigned additional duties pertaining to electronic scrap (e-scrap) recycling which will now take up half of his time. The additional workload is being spread among the other members of the used oil program—Cheryl, David, Pat and Jim. Please contact the used oil program staff at 801-538-6170 if you have any questions or suggestions.

