



## Proper Container Labeling and Signage Requirements for Motor Oil Retailers

### WHO IS AFFECTED BY THIS ADVISORY?

Any retailer or wholesaler selling more than 500 gallons of motor oil per year for use off the premises where sold.

### WHY IS DEP ISSUING THIS ADVISORY?

This advisory is being issued as a reminder to motor oil retailers of certain requirements in New Jersey. Specifically, as of July 1987, anyone in this State that sells, or offers for sale any motor oil in containers for use off premises must:

- (1) Ensure every container of lubricating or other oil is clearly marked or labeled as containing a recyclable material which, after use, shall be disposed of only at a used oil collection center; and
- (2) Clearly post and maintain a sign informing the public of the importance of the proper collection and disposal of used oil, including how and where to properly dispose of used oil. The sign must be durable and legible in a format that is at least 11 inches by 15 inches in size and located at or near the point of sale.

### WHAT IS DEP DOING?

DEP is providing this advisory to increase awareness and encourage proper disposal and recycling of used oil. This outreach will be followed by DEP staff making statewide compliance assistance site visits to evaluate and advise retailers how to comply with the motor oil recycling law (N.J.S.A. 13:1E-99.35). Failure to comply with these requirements may result in enforcement action pursuant to the Solid Waste Management Act.

### WHAT SHOULD I DO?

Any person who sells lubricating or other oil in containers for use off site, should determine if they exceed 500 gallons of annual sales and are therefore considered a “motor oil retailer” under the

# Compliance Advisory

motor oil recycling law. Motor oil retailers should ensure all containers of motor oil are properly labeled and that the necessary signage is posted, as described above. An example sign is attached that may be used by retailers to comply with item (2) above when posted on a placard 11 x 15 inches, or larger.

## WHO SHOULD I CONTACT WITH QUESTIONS?

DEP Bureau of Recycling & Hazardous Waste Management

609-984-3438

[recyclingfacilities@dep.nj.gov](mailto:recyclingfacilities@dep.nj.gov)

DEP Division of Waste & UST Compliance & Enforcement

609-633-1205

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Please note this advisory is intended to be a summary explanation of a Department initiative. It does not include all potentially applicable requirements. If you have any questions related to compliance, please contact the phone number listed above.

## Used Motor Oil Is Still a Major Pollutant

Used motor oil is still a major pollutant of soil and water in New Jersey. Although recycling programs have been in place for years, many people still do not bring their “do-it-yourself” used motor oil to collection centers. When it is poured down storm sewers, it flows directly into streams and lakes where it kills wildlife. When poured on the ground, it contaminates soil, and may contaminate wells. By recycling your used motor oil, you can keep the environment safe, and save resources. Used motor oil can be re-refined into motor oil that is as good as new or reprocessed as industrial boiler fuel.

## Do It Right

- After changing your motor oil, put the used oil in a clean, reusable container that has a cap or lid that closes securely.
- To find used motor oil recycling drop-off locations in your community, as well as additional information on used motor oil recycling, visit **Earth911** (<https://earth911.com>)
- Never mix other substances such as antifreeze, paint thinner or parts cleaner with your used motor oil! This will make it impossible to recycle and costly to dispose. You can dispose of these other substances at your county’s next Household Hazardous Waste Collection Day.
- Don’t forget to recycle used motor oil from small engines. Mowers, snow blowers, and motorboats all use motor oil. Even the small amounts from these motors can pollute soil and groundwater if discarded improperly.
- You can support recycling by purchasing re-refined lubricating oil for your engines. Look for the API certification mark, which tells you that the re-refined oil meets all standards.