Disposal of Used Motor Oil

Used motor oil is regulated as a liquid industrial waste and needs to be disposed of properly. Proper handling of any used oil includes:

1. Make sure the used oil is being properly stored and labeled. Most garages have above ground tanks which are preferred.
2. Though not required, some means of secondary containment is recommended when storing used oil. (Refer to MDOT Safety Administration website Environmental Topic on Secondary Containment.)
3. Do not mix other wastes with used oil. Do not dump any solvents or cleaning materials in the used oil storage tank. Keep all different types of waste separated.
4. When using drums, make sure the containers are closed when not adding used oils to prevent contamination.
5. Monitor your storage tank’s level and contact the proper disposal agency to dispose of the used oil. Make sure that the transporter hauls it to an appropriate treatment, storage, and disposal (recycling) facility.
6. Any waste oil shipped must be manifested and copies of the manifest need to be filed and retained for at least 3 years. MDOT can be held liable for damages if the used oil is disposed of improperly.

If you have any questions, please contact MDOT Safety Administration, or Division of Operations - Maintenance or your Region Resource Specialist.

For additional information refer to the MDOT Safety Administration website Environmental Topics on Used Oil, Used Oil Filters or use the link to the Michigan Manufacturers’ Guide to Environmental, Health, and Safety Regulations and review the information in Chapter 2 Waste Management.