

USED OIL SORBENTS, OIL CONTAMINATED TEXTILES, AND OTHER PETROLEUM CONTAMINATED MATERIALS

Disposable oil contaminated wastes, like commercial sorbent pigs, rags, shop towels, cat litter or oil dry, and soils, can be sent to a licensed sanitary landfill if the waste meets all these conditions:

- ✓ **Does not contain any free liquids** (the materials pass the paint filter test) **and the materials are either of the following:**
 - Not a hazardous waste, including sorbents used for cleaning up most oil spills; **or**
 - Are hazardous waste generated only by a conditionally exempt small quantity generator [R 299.9205(2)]; **and**
- ✓ The landfill operator will accept oil contaminated materials.
- ✓ No other used oil or other waste was intentionally added to the sorbent waste material for disposal in a landfill.

Generators must handle the sorbents as hazardous waste if the material was used to clean up oily waste that was listed hazardous waste as defined by [Part 2 Identification and Listing of Hazardous Waste administrative rules](#) to Part 111 of Act 451. Generators must also evaluate used sorbents to determine if they exhibit one or more hazardous waste characteristic (e.g. ignitable, toxic) and handle them appropriately. If these used materials are hazardous waste, the facility needs to include that amount in calculating its hazardous waste generator status. It may change the generator level they previously notified as and affect their waste management requirements. A permit is not required from the Waste and Hazardous Materials Division to add absorbent materials to hazardous waste in a container if all the conditions in [R 299.9503\(1\)\(h\)](#) are met and the treatment does not violate the [land disposal restriction](#) requirements. More information about hazardous waste requirements are in the [hazardous waste guidance](#) for generators. Discuss characterization questions or other requirements with the [District Office](#) Waste and Hazardous Materials Division.

Used materials that are not considered hazardous waste and that do not pass the paint filter test must be handled as [liquid industrial waste](#).

Recyclable absorbent used with oils. Once the sorbents are saturated, the oil can be squeezed from the pads and managed with your used oil if the squeezed oil is not contaminated with hazardous waste. The squeezed absorbent pads can be reused. Some companies offer services where used sorbents are returned to them for oil recovery and then the sorbents are able to be reused. To find recyclers, search the Internet or look for recyclers listed in the Oils and Solvents category in the [Recycled Materials Market Directory](#) by using the term “sorbent”.

When the pads reach the point where they can't be reused and the oil has been squeezed out and there are no free liquids present, determine if they are hazardous waste. If the spent sorbents are not hazardous and do not contain free liquids, check if the landfill operator will accept them for disposal. If they are hazardous waste, the disposal options will depend on the facility's hazardous waste generator status. See other guidance for [hazardous waste generators](#).

EPA has a list of manufacturers and suppliers of sorbents containing recycled materials at www.epa.gov/cpg/products/sorbents.htm.



Reusable textiles like rags and shop towels, gloves, and uniforms that have been contaminated with oils are exempt from the hazardous waste regulations if the textiles are reused and meet all of the following requirements [R 299.9206(3)(g)]:

- ✓ The textiles are being laundered or dry-cleaned for reuse.
- ✓ The textiles do not contain free liquids (Try squeezing liquid out of the textiles and if you can, then it is likely it would not pass the paint filter test).
- ✓ The containers used to store the textiles do not contain free liquids.
- ✓ Hazardous waste is not mixed with the textile after its original use.

Let your cleaning company know the type of oils being used so they can determine the best way to clean the textiles and the affect on their own waste stream. If you have a sensitive process, you may want to make special arrangements with the cleaners that you only get your textiles back to avoid any potential cross contamination from other chemicals or oils in materials they also clean.

Petroleum contaminated soils, groundwater, or other debris generated as a result of leaking underground storage tanks (UST) are exempt from the hazardous waste regulations if both:

- ✓ The contaminated material is only hazardous due to the presence of benzene, or other D019-D043 toxic constituents, **AND**
- ✓ The site is being cleaned up under the leaking UST requirements [R 299.9204(2)(l)].

This exemption does not apply to aboveground storage tanks (AST) releases, from contamination associated with an UST due to overfilling or other causes besides leaking, or other contamination sources. It would be necessary to determine if these materials are hazardous waste. Discuss cleanup requirements with the DEQ [District Office](#). Depending on the release situation, the cleanup may be overseen by the Remediation and Redevelopment Division or Waste and Hazardous Materials Division.