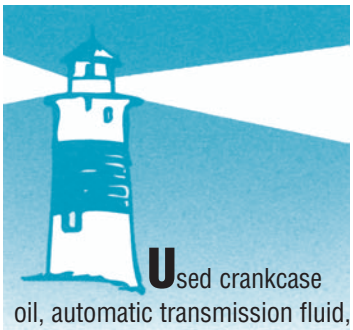
Oil Changes

Potential Environmental Impacts:

Even small amounts of oil introduced into the marina environment can cause environmental problems, especially if they persist. Although some oil that spills into the water evaporates, petroleum hydrocarbons can remain suspended in the water column, concentrate on the surface, or settle to the bottom. Because of the properties of oil, a cup of oil can spread a very thin sheen over more than an acre of calm water. An oil sheen can block necessary oxygen and light from moving through the surface of the water. According to the EPA, the hydrocarbons in oil harm juvenile fish, upset fish reproduction, and interfere with the growth and reproduction of bottom-dwelling organisms.



Used crankcase oil, automatic transmission fluid, power steering fluid and hydraulic fluid are all considered used oil and can be mixed and managed together.

Legal Requirements:

- Waste oil must be recycled [RCSA §22a-241b-2(1)(I)].
- Manage used oil, and any materials used to clean a spill, in accordance with the requirements specified in Appendix C [40 CFR 279 and RSCA §22a-449(c)-119].
- Storage of used oil is subject to all applicable Spill Prevention, Control and Countermeasures [40 CFR 112]. See Spill Prevention, Control and Countermeasure fact sheet in Appendix E for more information.
- If there is a stormwater discharge from your facility, you may have to register for a *General Permit for the Discharge of Stormwater Associated with Industrial Activity* ("Stormwater General Permit"). See Appendix F for more information.
- Oily bilge water or any petroleum product that is discharged to the waters of the state must be reported to the CT-DEP's Oil and Chemical Spill Response Division at (860) 424-3338 [CGS §22a-450]. See Appendix E for state and federal spill reporting requirements.
- If oily bilge water or any petroleum product that is discharged into navigable waters causes a visible sheen, it may also be necessary to report the discharge to the National Response Center at (800) 424-8802 [Section 311 of the Clean Water Act; 33 USC 1321]. See Appendix E for the state and federal spill reporting requirements.
- The use of dispersants, such as dishwashing soaps or detergents, on a fuel spill or sheen of any size on the surface water is prohibited in most circumstances [40 CFR 110.4]. Dispersants may only be used with permission from federal or state authorities, and only in rare instances.

Best Management Practices:

✪ Do not mix used oil with anything else, such as chlorinated solvents, or expose oil to electrical contact cleaner or carburetor cleaner which can contaminate used oil while in an engine. Doing so will result in the need to perform a hazardous waste determination on the used oil mixture to

establish whether or not the mixture must be managed as a hazardous waste.

- ✪ Purchase a non-spill vacuum-type system for spill-proof oil changes, or to suction oily water from bilges.
- ✪ Slip a plastic bag over used oil filters prior to removal to prevent drips.
- ✪ Burn your used oil in a used oil fuel space heater. This is also a cost saving measure that eliminates the cost of waste oil removal and can extend maintenance activities through the winter. See Appendix C for more information on burning used oil in space heaters.
- ✪ Recycle used oil filters. Puncture and drain them first. Collect the drained used oil and manage as described in Appendix C. If you generate large numbers of filters, consider purchasing a filter crusher.
- ✪ Install collection facilities for used oil and used oil filters and encourage boaters to use them, or direct boaters to their municipal used oil collection facility, usually at local transfer station. Post signs indicating how important it is that the used oil not be contaminated. Consider providing separate tanks for used oil, one for patrons to use and a secure tank for used oil collected by marina facility staff. See Appendix C for details on used oil storage.
- ✪ Use oil absorbent materials to clean up small drips and spills. Sell oil absorbent pads in the ships store.
- ✪ Educate customers and staff to not use soaps and detergents to clean up oily drips and spills.
- ✪ Avoid pumping bilge water that is oily or has a visible sheen. Use oil absorbent materials or an oil/water separator to remove oil before pumping.
- ✪ Purchase a portable or stationary oil/water separator to clean bilge water. These devices draw contaminated water from bilges, capture hydrocarbons in a filter, and discharge clean water.

Checklist for Clean Marina Certification:

✔ Do you have oil absorbent materials available when doing boat maintenance?

YES **NO** **N/A**

✔ Do you offer spill proof oil changes with non-spill vacuum-type systems?

YES **NO** **N/A**