Proper Handling and Disposal of Vehicle Wastes

**Tires:**

A waste tire fee is collected on new and used tires that are sold in Oklahoma. The amounts are $1.00, $2.50 and $3.50 per tire and are determined by the size of the tire rim. If the rim size is 17 ½” or less, the fee is $1.00. If the rim size is greater than 17 ½” and less than or equal to 19 ½”, the fee is $2.50 per tire. If the rim size is greater than 19 ½”, the fee is $3.50 per tire. The fee for tires to be used on motorcycles, minibikes, motor-driven cycles or motorized bicycles is $1.00 per tire.

Beginning July 1, 2010, a waste tire fee of $0.05 per pound of weight with a minimum fee of $2.50 should be collected for tires used on implements of husbandry and agricultural equipment that are not more than 14 inches wide and 44 inches in diameter. Fees do not have to be collected if the customer keeps the used agricultural tire for use on a farm or ranch.

For further information about waste tires, call Waste Tire Program Customer Assistance at (405) 702-5175.

**Used Motor Oil:**

The State of Oklahoma has adopted the federal used oil regulations (40CFR Part 279) which set forth standards for the management of used oil. Used oil that is recycled is not considered a hazardous waste, however, used oil from businesses that is disposed has to be tested to determine if it is a hazardous waste. Used oil may test hazardous for metals and benzene. Then used oil must be managed according to hazardous waste regulations and the generator must then dispose of the used oil at a hazardous waste disposal facility.

Testing can be done at commercial laboratories. Information about testing requirements or other hazardous waste management requirements can be obtained from the Department of Environmental Quality’s Land Protection Division at (405)702-5100. In lieu of disposing of used oil, generators may wish to consider recycling. Used oil that is destined for recycling does not have to be tested for its hazardous characteristics, however many oil recyclers do test for halogens. There are several companies in Oklahoma which provide a recycling service for used motor oil and transmission fluid as well as antifreeze. It is a good idea to check with your bulk oil supplier to see if they can pick up used oil when they deliver your retail oil supply. Since the collection and management of used oil (and other types of vehicle fluids) is subject to certain standards, contracting with a reputable disposal/recycling company is important.

**Oil Filters:**

Many of the companies who pick up used oil will accept oil filters. The filters need to be hot drained and if possible, crushed. There are restrictions on the disposal of oil filters, depending on whether they are terne (an alloy of tin and lead) or non-terne. Most oil filters made and sold today...
are non-terne except for those on heavy equipment and large trucks, but - if you are faced with the disposal of terne (or temeplated) filters, you must determine whether they are hazardous by the TCLP (Toxicity Characteristic leaching Procedure) test.

**Solvents:**

The solvent products which are purchased to clean parts may or may not be hazardous depending on the constituents of the solvent itself, and what was cleaned with it. There are specific regulatory stipulations for what is considered a hazardous waste. Spent solvents can be listed hazardous wastes, can be ignitable, or can contain metals at levels which would make them hazardous. The specifics for identifying a waste as hazardous can be found in Title 40 of the Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) Part 261. Recycling of solvents may help avoid some of the high costs of disposing of the waste solvents at a hazardous waste disposal facility. There are companies in Oklahoma who perform these services.

Research has developed citrus or water based solvents, which are effective and are said to be less hazardous to employees and to the environment.

Empty solvent containers need to be disposed with caution, although they can go to landfills authorized to receive nonhazardous industrial waste. Approval for disposal of these types of wastes is handled by the Department of Environmental Quality’s Land Protection Division, Solid Waste Compliance Unit. This unit can be reached at (405) 702-5100.

**Lead-acid Batteries:**

Automobile batteries are recyclable. Both the lead-acid component and the plastic case can be recycled.

Most battery wholesalers have some mechanism to collect the batteries. Check with your supplier. If your dealership sells lead-acid batteries retail, you must post a sign informing the public that lead-acid batteries are accepted for recycling.

**General Waste Information:**

There are three classifications of hazardous waste generators large, small, and conditionally exempt. Each is subject to specific individual regulations. Information regarding how to determine your generator classification and the applicable requirements may be obtained by contacting the Department of Environmental Quality’s Land Protection Division. This Division can be reached at (405) 702-5100.

Finally, if you have other materials to dispose of which you are unsure about, or would like help in determining if you must handle these wastes in a special manner, you may call the Department of Environmental Quality, Customer Assistance Division at (405) 702-1000 or 1-800-869-1400.