

Commercial/ Industrial users

An estimated 60 million litres of lubricating oil is sold in New Zealand each year.

Overseas research suggests that about half of the oil, or 30 million litres is lost in use (burned in car engines etc).

New Zealand therefore, generates an estimated 30 million litres of used oil each year, that 'disappears' into our communities and backyards.

In Rotorua alone, one of the Registered Waste Contractors collects approximately 15,000 litres of used oil per month from commercial premises.

At the Rotorua District Council, we are concerned that waste oil is being disposed of into the sewer and into the environment. Recently, significant amounts of waste oil have been poured into the sewer, and generated operating problems at the Waste Water Treatment Plant. If waste oil is disposed of into the environment, 1 litre can contaminate 1 million litres of drinking water.

How can you help?

Are you a car owner, who does your own oil changes?

Are you an industrial or commercial operator?

Are you disposing of your waste oil into drains?

It is the responsibility of industrial and commercial generators of used oil to collect and store used oil in areas that minimise the risk of environmental damage. You must accept the costs of disposing of used oil responsibly.

Prevent contaminants such as solvents, fuels etc, being added to your used oil. Every trade premises connected to the sewer has the potential to discharge hazardous waste substances, of which oil is one, into the drainage systems.



Please ensure...

- ▶ That your used oil collection does not contain fuels, anti-freeze, sludges, paint washings, PCB's, bilge waters etc
- ▶ That you separate all hazardous substances into separate containers for responsible disposal to a registered hazardous waste hauler
- ▶ That your used oil storage tank is bunded to contain 125% of it's volume if stored outside. That means if there is a rupture or accidental spillage from the tank, any leakage is captured within the bunded area, and not allowed to escape into any drains or the environment
- ▶ All used oil must be disposed of by a registered hazardous waste hauler and records kept as proof of disposal
- ▶ Staff need to be made aware of the above requirements, and be trained in spill containment procedures

Discharging waste oil or hazardous wastes into the sewer or any other public drain is ILLEGAL whether it is done knowingly or not, and is subject to prosecution.

