



INDIANA DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT

Used Oil Filters

Compliance and Response Branch
Office of Land Quality

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This guidance addresses the management of terne-plated and non terne-plated used oil filters. Terne-plated filters are generally used in heavy-duty vehicles. Non terne-plated oil filters are found in automobiles and light trucks. Management practices for these two filters vary.

Non terne-plated filters have several management options. The way in which you choose to manage your filters will determine which regulations will apply to you. Management options are described below.

Properly drained non terne-plated filters are excluded from the hazardous waste regulations. Proper draining is accomplished through hot draining the filter. Hot draining is defined as draining the oil filter at or near the engine’s operating temperature, but above 60 degrees Fahrenheit. In other words, remove the filter from the engine while it is still warm. The EPA recommends hot draining for a minimum of 12 hours. Used oil removed from the filters is then subject to the Used Oil Rule (329 IAC 13). One of the following methods may be used for proper draining (40 CFR 261.4(b)(13)):

1. Puncture the filter’s anti-drain back valve or the filter dome end and hot drain
2. Hot drain the filter and crush it
3. Dismantle and hot drain
4. Any other hot drain method that will remove the used oil

Undrained non terne-plated filters are subject to the Used Oil Rule (329 IAC 13) if the filters are recycled or burned for energy recovery.

Undrained filters that are discarded are subject to solid and hazardous waste management regulations. A waste determination would be required on the filters to ensure that they are not hazardous. If the filters can be managed as a solid waste, they should be managed by a facility capable of handling liquid waste.

Terne-plated filters have a lead alloy applied to the shell of the filter to strengthen it. Due to the use of lead in these filters, they can be managed in one of two ways. Terne-plated filters that are properly hot drained and recycled as a scrap metal are exempt from the hazardous waste regulations. Terne-plated filters managed by any other method should be managed as a hazardous waste.

Indiana continues to promote recycling over disposal. Companies are encouraged to choose recycling whenever possible. For more information, contact IDEM’s Office of Land Quality at (317) 234-6923, or the IDEM toll-free number (800) 451-6027.

Regulations for Non-Terne Plated Used Oil Filters

Management	Regulation
Hot Drained	Excluded from Hazardous Waste Regulations
Recycled	Used Oil Rule
Burned for Energy Recovery	Used Oil Rule
Discarded	Solid and Hazardous Waste Regulations

Regulations for Terne Plated Used Oil Filters

Management	Regulation
Hot Drained & Recycled	Excluded from Hazardous Waste Regulations
All Other Methods	Hazardous Waste Regulations