

Management of Wastes Generated at Motor Vehicle Fuel Dispensing Facilities

*For Use by Unidocs Member Agencies or where approved by your Local Jurisdiction
Authority Cited: California Health and Safety Code (HSC); Title 22 California Code of Regulations (CCR)*

This document has been prepared to assist owners/operators of motor vehicle fuel dispensing facilities in the proper management of several wastes typically generated at such facilities. Each of these wastes must be managed as hazardous waste unless you have prepared a written hazardous waste determination showing that the waste does not have any hazardous characteristics (i.e., toxicity, ignitability, corrosivity, or reactivity). If you have any questions regarding this information, please contact the Unified Program Agency that implements the Hazardous Waste Generator program in your area. Unidocs Member Agency jurisdiction and contact information is available at www.unidocs.org/members/whoregulateswhat.html.

A. Used Absorbents

Absorbents used to clean up spills of petroleum or other hazardous materials may be reused until they become too saturated to be effective. At that point, you must manage them as hazardous waste unless a hazardous waste determination shows that they are not hazardous. Used absorbents, whether reusable or waste, must be stored in a sealed container. Containers holding absorbents that are reusable should be clearly identified (e.g., marked as “Usable Absorbent,” “Absorbent for Reuse,” etc.) to distinguish them from hazardous waste containers. Containers of hazardous waste absorbents must be manifested off-site for proper disposal within the hazardous waste accumulation time limits which apply to your facility. Time limits are based on total amounts of waste generated monthly and annually unless point-of-generation (satellite) accumulation requirements apply. Under no circumstances may hazardous absorbents be dried and disposed of in the trash, burned, buried, or otherwise disposed of unlawfully.

B. Used Filters from Dispensers or Other Fuel Systems

Per Health and Safety Code (HSC) §25144.7, used fuel filters may be drained on-site without an on-site hazardous waste treatment permit. Evaporation of fuel is not allowed, so filters must be drained and accumulated in sealed containers. Per HSC §25250.22, used fuel filters drained of free flowing fuel, containing gasoline or diesel residue, and drained used oil filters commingled with such fuel filters, may be managed in accordance with regulations governing the management of used oil filters (i.e., 22 CCR §66266.130) with the following additional requirements:

- Containers holding the filters during accumulation must be:
 - Designed to prevent ignition of gasoline;
 - Marked, “USED OIL AND GASOLINE FILTERS;”
 - Kept sealed with a tight-fitting lid when not adding or removing filters or waste;
 - Managed per applicable Fire Code regulations.
- Prior to transportation, the filters must be packaged and labeled in accordance with Parts 172 (commencing with Section 172.1), 173 (commencing with Section 173.1), 178 (commencing with Section 178.1), and 179 (commencing with Section 179.1) of Title 49 of the Code of Federal Regulations.

- Filters must be shipped per Consolidated Manifesting requirements for proper recycling or disposal within one year of the accumulation start date. (*Exception: storage of 2,000 pounds or more of used oil and/or fuel filters is limited to 180 days.*)

The following must be labeled and manifested as hazardous waste: filters that have not had free flowing fuel drained from them; gasoline or used oil commingled with gasoline that accumulates in containers or other equipment used for filter storage or recycling; and nonmetal filter material removed from filter housings. Under no circumstances may used filters, drained or not, be dried and disposed of in the trash, burned, buried, or otherwise disposed of unlawfully.

C. Water Removed From Sumps, Dispenser Pans, Spill Containers, etc.

Facility personnel must determine whether or not any water which may have been in contact with hazardous substances has been contaminated and manage its disposal accordingly. In the case of petroleum, a visual check will often suffice. If the water has a petroleum sheen (i.e., rainbow colors), you must manage it as a hazardous waste unless a hazardous waste determination shows that it is not hazardous based upon the characteristics of ignitability and toxicity. Be aware that a thick floating petroleum layer may not necessarily display rainbow colors. If the water has no petroleum sheen or other obvious signs of contamination, and if your local publicly owned treatment works (POTW) agency approves, you may dispose of it to sanitary sewer (i.e., down a sink or toilet). Hazardous waste water must be stored in sealed, properly labeled containers, and manifested off-site for proper recycling or disposal within applicable hazardous waste accumulation time limits. Under no circumstances may water (hazardous or non-hazardous) from sumps, spill containers, etc. be disposed of on the ground or to storm water systems.

D. Water Removed From Diesel or Other Petroleum Tanks

Diesel tanks tend to accumulate water. This water must be pumped out periodically (typically about twice a year) to maintain fuel quality. Water removed from tanks must be managed as a hazardous waste unless a hazardous waste determination shows that it is not hazardous based upon the characteristics of ignitability and toxicity. Hazardous waste water must be stored in sealed, properly labeled containers, and manifested off-site for proper disposal within applicable hazardous waste accumulation time limits.