



Used Oil Burning

Technical Guidance

This technical guidance document describes the requirements of the federal used oil regulations as they apply to the burning of used oil and fuel specifications ([40 CFR Part 279.11](#), [279.12](#), and [279.23](#)). The Arizona Department of Environmental Quality (ADEQ) requires companies that burn used oil to submit an annual report by February 1st of the following year pursuant to [A.R.S. § 49-802.C.4](#). Instructions and form are attached for your use.

Used Oil Fuel Specifications

Used oil that has been tested in a laboratory and meets the fuel specifications in the following table is commonly referred to as “on-specification” or “on-spec” Used oil. Used oil that does not meet the fuel specifications is “off-specification” or “off-spec.” If used oil (or fuel produced from used oil) that is to be burned for energy recovery is demonstrated to be on-spec and the person making that claim complies with the requirements of [40 CFR 279.72](#), [279.73](#), and [279.74\(b\)](#), the oil is no longer regulated as used oil.

USED OIL FUEL SPECIFICATIONS

<u>Constituent/Property</u>	<u>Allowable Level</u>
Arsenic.....	5 ppm maximum
Cadmium.....	2 ppm maximum
Chromium.....	10 ppm maximum
Lead.....	100 ppm maximum
Flash point.....	100° F or higher
Total Halogen.....	1,000 ppm maximum ¹

¹ For used oil containing more than 1,000 ppm total halogen or PCBs please refer to the ADEQ website: [ADEQ Used Oil Specifications](#)

Used oil that is determined by testing to be "on-spec" may be obtained from various used oil processors, re-refiners or even directly from generators. The recipient should request a copy of the analysis of the used oil and keep the analysis for at least three years.

Burning Used Oil in On-Site Space Heaters

Used oil may be burned in an oil-fired space heater under the following conditions:

1. The heater is designed to have a maximum capacity of not more than 0.5 million Btu per hour; and
2. The combustion gases from the heater are vented to the outside of the building; and
3. The used oil is either:
 - a. Generated by:
 - The person or facility using the space heater; or
 - A household do-it-yourselfer; or
 - A farmer who generates no more than 25 gallons of used oil per month from vehicles or machinery used on the farm.
 - OR
 - b. Determined to be “on-spec” and meets the other criteria of [40 CFR 279.11](#). Without testing, the owner of the space heater cannot be certain that used oil from a business is uncontaminated.

Burning Off-Specification Used Oil

Off-specification used oil may only be burned in the following units ([see 40 CFR Subpart G](#)):

- Industrial furnaces;
- Industrial and utility boilers;
- Hazardous waste incinerators; and
- A generator’s own on-site space heater. Keep in mind that oil-fired space heaters are designed to burn used oil, not solvents, anti-freeze, brake fluid, gasoline, or other materials from a business that could be mixed in with the used oil. Burning these materials in a space heater could damage the heater and result in serious injuries to the user.

For additional information regarding proper management of solid or hazardous waste in Pima County, you may contact the Pima County Department of Environmental Quality (PDEQ) at (520) 724-7400, at the address at the beginning of this document, or visit the PDEQ website at <http://www.deq.pima.gov/waste/index.html>.