



# Oil and Water – Do not Mix!

BY: CATHERINE PATE – ON BEHALF OF THE ROSE FOUNDATION

Used lubricant oil contains harmful compounds and carcinogens and one litre of used oil can contaminate one million litres of water. Because of this, used oil – which is a common by-product of mechanised processes in all industry sectors - is classified as a hazardous waste and is strictly governed by environmental laws and, more specifically, the requirements of the Waste Act.

**T**he ROSE Foundation (Recycling Oil Saves the Environment) have been championing the responsible collection and removal of used oil for proper recycling since 1994 and offer the following advice to used oil generators:

20kg of used lubrication oil per day must be registered on SAWIS

Four car oil changes a day, or one truck oil change per day, will require registration as a generator of Hazardous Waste. In short if you get in excess of 20kg of used oil per day, you are required to register on the South African Waste Information System (SAWIS).

Once registered, the generators need to submit their figures every 90 days (quarterly) into the SAWIS. The information needs to be based on actual volumes and not estimates.

**The following information needs to be submitted and retained by the waste generator for five years, to be produced for inspection required:**

- (a) the month and year to which the information applies;
- (b) Category of waste; HW07 Waste Oils 01 Waste oil
- (c) Source from which waste comes
- (d) The quantity of waste reported in tons.