

Lawful workshop oil management

It is estimated that South Africa generates an average of 120 million litres of used lubricant oil per year. This is a large amount of used oil that, if not collected and recycled responsibly, could make its way into our environment. **Submitted by the Recycling Oil Saves the Environment (ROSE) Foundation**

With nearly 11 million vehicles on South Africa's roads (according to latest eNatis statistics) and more than 3 000 registered workshops – not to mention the unregistered and backyard mechanics servicing many of these vehicles – there is a huge volume of used oil being generated in the automotive sector.

Service centres and mechanical workshops, as used oil generators, are urged to gather and store their used oil for responsible collection by a ROSE-registered oil collector who will visit the site, remove the oil and take it to be recycled in an environmentally compliant and safe manner. Collectors must always issue their clients with a safe disposal certificate, which is now required by law under the National

8 Practical tips for storing used oil

- 1 Drain oil into a clean container with a tight-fitting lid, such as a reusable combination drain pan or storage container
- 2 Ensure that the oil is stored in a container with a secure lid so that it cannot spill out. Empty oil containers and drums make effective makeshift storage vessels for used oil. However, do not use a container that previously held chemicals such as cleaners, solvents, fuels, paint or bleach
- 3 Always clearly label used motor oil containers
- 4 For those running businesses that generate high volumes of used oil, the ROSE Foundation can supply tailor-made, cube-shaped 1 000 ℓ mini tanks, which make maximum use of available space and hold more oil. To make things even easier, the collections require no handling of the containers. Sealed couplings are used to pump the contents straight into a tanker truck so there is no spillage or leakage
- 5 Keep these containers in a place that can be accessed by an accredited used-oil collector and keep the surrounding area clear and clean. Ideally store them under cover and away from heat or the sources of an ignition



Doing it right

"The legislation in place in South Africa means that responsible waste management within a business environment is no longer just a nice thing to do but a necessary thing."



Getting it wrong

Some oily can- or bottle-waste-generating businesses in South Africa discard their related wastes along with the domestic refuse and are not properly storing them for safe disposal or recycling



