



Call the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection Hotline to find the Collection Site for motor oil nearest to you. 1-800-346-4242

Or check online at: [www.dep.state.pa.us](http://www.dep.state.pa.us)



The Streets Department of Philadelphia conducts Household Hazardous Waste Drop-off Events every year. Call to find the next nearby event. 215-686-5560

Or check online at: [www.phila.gov/streets](http://www.phila.gov/streets)

For collection sites in neighboring counties call:

Bucks County 215-345-3400

Chester County 610-344-5937

Delaware County 610-892-9627

Montgomery County 610-278-3618

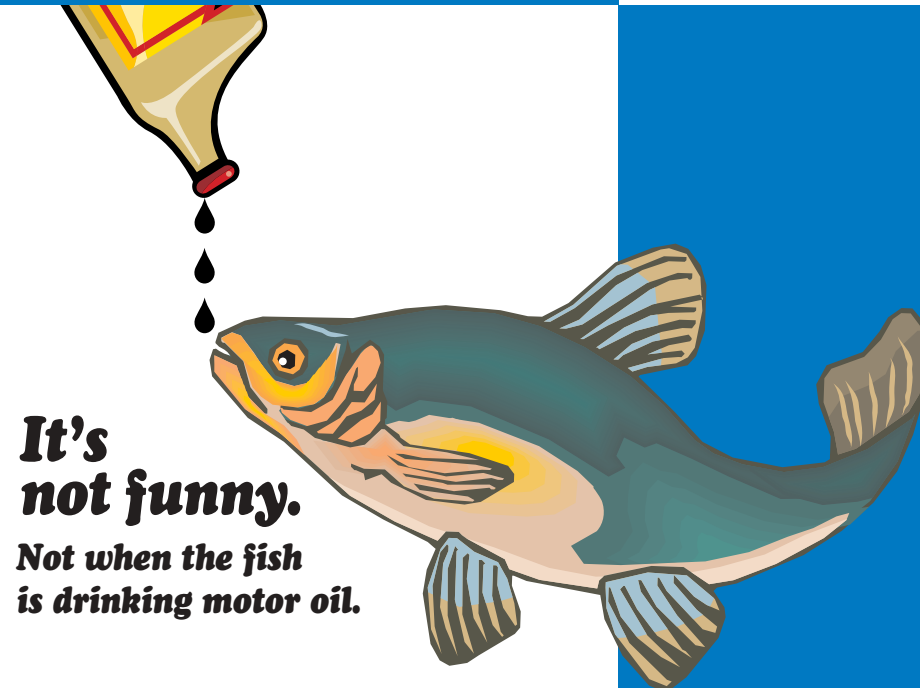


A service of the Streets Department of Philadelphia

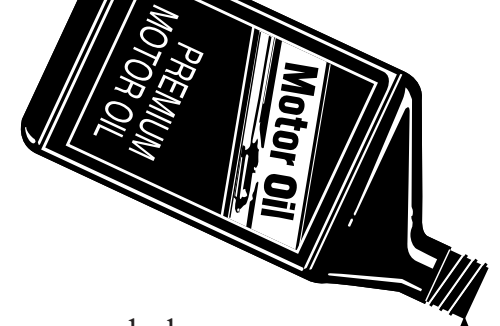
John F. Street, Mayor • Clarena I.W. Tolson, Streets Commissioner

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**Did you hear the one about the fish with a drinking problem?**



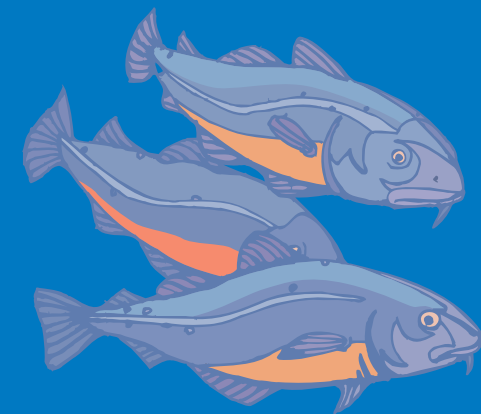
**It's not funny. Not when the fish is drinking motor oil.**



**Every time you change the oil** in a car, truck, lawn mower, or other motorized vehicle, you're left with the *used oil*, as well as a few ounces of *clean oil* that may remain in the container.

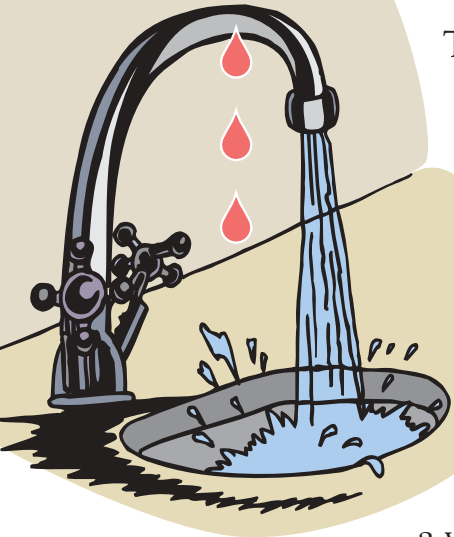
You may think that the little bit of drained oil and leftover oil can't possibly do any harm *poured down the drain or poured out on the ground in your yard, or on the concrete in your garage or driveway...WRONG!*

How you dispose of that oil can help create major problems for our streams, lakes, rivers, groundwater, and the machinery in our waste water treatment plants. It can even be extremely hazardous to the health of every person living in Philadelphia.



**Did you hear the one about the PEOPLE with...**

## People also have a problem with oil in water!



The used motor oil drained out of a motor may contain toxic substances such as lead, benzene, zinc, cadmium, and arsenic. If it gets into our water or food, it could make you seriously ill.

When rainwater carries that metal and toxic filled oil into underground streams, and contaminates drinking water, it can create serious risks to our health, as well as to the environment.

Motor oil is not removed from the sewage treated at waste water treatment plants. In fact just a gallon of used oil can ruin a million gallons of freshwater—a year's supply for 50 people.

In Pennsylvania, car and truck owners who change their own motor oil, improperly dispose of 9.5 million gallons a year of motor oil. Remember the Exxon Valdez oil spill crisis in Alaska? That oil spill was 10.8 million gallons. *Yearly, Pennsylvanian's intentionally pour almost as much motor oil into soil and water as the the Exxon Valdez spilled accidentally!*

**IF YOU POUR JUST A LITTLE BIT OF OIL DOWN THE DRAIN JUST ONCE, IT CAN CAUSE AN OIL-SLICK AS BIG AS YOUR HOUSE!**

You may think that the ounce or two of motor oil that you're pouring down the drain is such a small amount that it can't possibly be a problem. Motor oil doesn't dissipate, it accumulates. Your few ounces plus the millions more poured down the drain by others adds up to a serious threat to our health and our environment. *Just one quart of oil is enough to create a two-acre sized oil slick on surface water.*

Please follow the guidelines on the right—and be a part of the solution—not part of the problem.



## Protect your health and the environment with PROPER DISPOSAL

- Pour any used or leftover motor oil into a secure, sealable, leakproof container such as a plastic milk bottle or a laundry detergent bottle and secure the cap tightly.
- Do not mix used motor oil with other substances such as antifreeze, or other chemicals. This can be extremely dangerous.
- If there is a collection site near you that accepts and recycles motor oil, take your properly contained motor oil to that site or drop it off at a Household Hazardous Waste Event. Call (215) 686-5560 for a list of Household Hazardous Waste Drop-off Events, or call 1 (800) 346-4242 for a list of used oil drop-off sites. For used oil information on the web go to [www.phila.gov/streets](http://www.phila.gov/streets)

### Improper Disposal Methods That Do Harm

**Pouring motor oil down your drain.** That can be hazardous to people, pollute drinking water and decrease efficiency of the process in waste water treatment facilities, creating expensive repairs.

**Pouring motor oil down a storm drain.** Doing this also contaminates streams, killing fish and the plants they need to survive.

**Pouring motor oil in backyards, driveways, and garages.** The oil can stay in the soil of your yard, driveways, and garages and drain through cracks in the concrete of garages and driveways. It then contaminates the groundwater, making its way into streams, rivers, lakes, and our water supply.

**Putting motor oil out with the trash.** Trash is often disposed of in landfills. Motor oil in the trash mixes with other fluids and may contaminate the groundwater.

### Protect Your Family

**If you change the oil in your family vehicle, lawn motor, or other motorized appliance, here are some safety tips you should observe:**

- Place a drip pan under the vehicle's oil pan plug to collect as much of the used oil as possible and prevent spills that can leak through cracks in the concrete of your garage or driveway and contaminate your groundwater.
- Loosen the old oil filter (use a filter wrench if necessary), then spin it off and drain as much oil as possible out of the filter into your drip pan.
- Pour the used oil into a clean, empty plastic container with a tight lid. Do not mix it with any other chemical substances.
- Oil that has been poured into the ground, driveway, or garage of your home may contain metals and toxic chemicals. Exercise caution if you grow fruits and vegetables. These substances remain in the ground and groundwater and are a serious health hazard.

