



Waste Fuel, Tanks & Filters

Potential Environmental Impacts

When fuel is removed from vehicles, tanks, spill buckets, and filters, it can pollute groundwater supplies and pose a serious fire safety risk if improperly stored. Gasoline has a low flash point (making it flammable) and contains toxic constituents such as benzene.

Legal Requirements

- ◆ Waste fuel may not be drained onto the ground or released into waterways. [CGS Section 22a-451; RCSA Section 22a-430] Instead, these fuels must be collected and properly managed. If the fuel is in good condition, it may be reused (e.g., in company vehicles). [40 CFR 261.2(e)(1)(ii)] If the fuel cannot be reused, it is a waste and must be properly disposed of or recycled.
- ◆ Waste gasoline that is going to be disposed of must be stored in closed containers and tanks and managed as a hazardous waste. [40 CFR 261.21, 261.24, 262.34(a), (c), & (d); RCSA Sections 22a-449(c)-102(a)(2)] Also, waste gasoline that is mixed with hazardous waste (e.g., spent solvents), may not be reused and must be managed as a hazardous waste. [40 CFR 261.3(a)(2)(iv)] See Appendix A for more information on hazardous waste storage and disposal requirements.
- ◆ Waste diesel fuel is typically not classified as a hazardous waste, since it is less flammable than gasoline and contains less of the toxic constituent benzene. However, waste diesel fuel can be hazardous, especially if mixed with gasoline or other hazardous wastes. [40 CFR 261.3(a)(2)(iv)] The only way to know for sure is to have it tested. In addition, even if waste diesel fuel is not hazardous, it must still be managed as a Non-RCRA-Hazardous “Connecticut-Regulated” Waste. [CGS Section 22a-454] See Appendix A for more information on hazardous waste testing and the management of Non-RCRA-Hazardous “Connecticut-Regulated” Wastes.
- ◆ There are many companies that can recycle waste fuel by reclaiming it and blending it into industrial fuels. If you recycle your waste fuel in this way, it is exempt from hazardous waste requirements. [40 CFR 261.2(c)(2)(ii), 261.21, & 261.24] See the DEEP website for a [list of permitted companies](#) that may be able to do this kind of recycling. You must keep records of your fuel recycling (such as contacts with recyclers, bills of lading, etc.), in order to document that the waste fuel is exempt from regulation. [40 CFR 261.2(f)] The recycled fuel must also be managed as a Non-RCRA-Hazardous “Connecticut-Regulated” Waste. [CGS Section 22a-454] See Appendix A for more information on Non-RCRA-Hazardous “Connecticut-Regulated” Wastes.

- ◆ Old vehicle fuel tanks that are empty must be recycled as scrap metal or can be disposed of in the trash if made of plastic [40 CFR 261.7]. The tanks are considered empty if they have been drained of all material that can be removed from the tank by normal methods like pouring or pumping, AND no more than one inch (or 3% by weight of residue remains in the tank). If an old vehicle fuel tank is not empty, then the excess fuel must be drained and managed in accordance to the requirements listed above. [40 CFR 262.11; RCSA Section 22a-449(c)-102(a)(2)(A)].
- ◆ If you store virgin fuel on-site in tanks, you may generate water/fuel mixtures or sediment from periodic maintenance of your tanks. If these wastes are recycled as described above for waste fuels, they would be exempt from regulation as hazardous wastes. However, if they are disposed of, they would have to be tested to determine if they are hazardous, and managed accordingly. See Appendix A for more information on hazardous waste testing and the management of Non-RCRA-Hazardous “Connecticut-Regulated” Wastes.
- ◆ If you use absorbent to collect fuel spills, the used absorbent must be placed in a container and properly managed. For more information on how to properly manage these used absorbents, see the Rags and Absorbents fact sheet.
- ◆ Underground fuel storage tanks are subject to special requirements. See the Petroleum Storage Tanks fact sheet for information on the proper management of these tanks.
- ◆ Fuel filters, even when properly drained, cannot be discarded in the trash since they may be hazardous due to benzene in the gasoline or toxic metals in the filter casing. [40 CFR 261.24] However, if metal fuel filters are drained of all free liquid and are recycled as scrap metal, they are exempt from the hazardous waste regulations. [40 CFR 261.6(a)(3)(ii)]

**For more information, call DEEP’s Waste
Engineering and Enforcement Division at
888-424-4193.**

Legal References

- Identification and listing of Hazardous Waste
 - [40 CFR 261.2\(c\)\(2\)\(ii\), 261.21, & 261.24](#)
 - [40 CFR 261.3\(a\)\(2\)\(iv\)](#)
 - [40 CFR 262.34\(a\), \(c\), & \(d\)](#)
 - [40 CFR 262.11](#)
 - [40 CFR 261.6\(a\)\(3\)\(ii\)](#)
 - [40 CFR 261.7](#)
- Standards Applicable to Generators of Hazardous Waste
 - [RCSA Sections 22a-449\(c\)-102](#)

Best Management Practices

- ★ Use an air-driven pump or a fuel tank drilling machine to drain the remaining fuel from a tank into a properly labeled storage container.
- ★ Re-use or recycle the fuel drained from tanks.
- ★ Metal tanks will be accepted by most scrap recyclers if the tanks have been crushed, cut up, or have holes in them.
- ★ Store used tanks on a covered impermeable surface away from ignition sources like heat or sparks.
- ★ Store gasoline or diesel fuel that is to be reused on-site in closed containers that are clearly labeled.
- ★ Do not mix waste gasoline or diesel fuel with other wastes, since this can complicate testing and disposal, and make it difficult or impossible to reuse or recycle it as a fuel.



Removing gasoline with a tank drilling machine

Pollution Prevention Checklist

- ✓ Do you use an air-driven pump or a tank drilling machine to siphon fuel from tanks, helping to eliminate spills?
- ✓ Do you re-use fuel drained from tanks for your vehicles or equipment?



Did You Know?

Sending your waste gasoline for recycling (fuel blending) rather than for disposal may reduce your monthly hazardous waste totals and can eliminate the regulations that you are required to comply with by reducing your hazardous waste generator status.

[2014 Pit Stops Fact Sheets](#). Connecticut Department of Energy and Environmental Protection, Office of Pollution Prevention, 860-424-3297. Updated September 2015 www.ct.gov/deep/pitstops

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