

## Burning Used Oil in a Space Heater – For Homeowners

**THIS POLICY DOES NOT HAVE THE FORCE OF LAW**

**Hazardous Waste Program**

*In this guidance we will explain **Ohio's used oil rules** as found in Ohio Administrative Code (OAC) Chapter 3745-279. They apply to homeowners who want to collect and burn used oil in a space heater. This guidance does not apply to heating oil that you buy from a heating oil vendor that may be derived from used oil. It only applies to used oil that you generate from servicing your own vehicle, collect directly from other household do-it-yourselfers or that you collect directly from a business that generates the used oil. You should be aware that you may be subject to other environmental regulations concerning the **Division of Air Pollution Control** (contact them at 614-644-2270) and spill prevention control and counter measure requirements.*

### Space Heaters

A space heater is a small unit that has a heat output capacity of not more than 500,000 British thermal units per hour (BTU/hr). Typically, they will burn from 0.1 to 4 gallons of used oil per hour. They are usually used to heat the garages and workshops for comfort. They can also be used to heat spaces such as greenhouses.

### Can I burn used oil that I generate from my own vehicle?

OAC rule [3745-279-20\(A\)](#) provides that household do-it yourselfers are exempt from the used oil regulations so you can burn used oil that you generate in your space heater without any restrictions under the used oil rules.

### Can I burn other homeowners' do-it yourselfer used oil?

According to OAC rule [3745-279-30](#), if you collect used oil from other homeowner do-it yourselfers you are considered to be a do-it yourselfer collection center and must comply with the used oil generator rules found in OAC rules [3745-279-20 through 3745-279-24](#). According to OAC rule [3745-279-23](#) you can burn used oil from other household do-it yourselfers with the following restrictions:

- ◆ The space heater has a heating capacity of 500,000 BTU/hr. or less (you can find the capacity in the owner's manual or on the heater itself);
- ◆ The space heater is legitimately used for heating purposes such as for comfort in homes, garages or for other heating purposes such as in a greenhouse;
- ◆ You vent the space heater to the outside; and,
- ◆ If you get used oil from other household do-it-yourselfers you must comply with the used oil management standards for generators of used oil found in Ohio EPA's used oil rules ([Ohio Administrative Code rules 3745-279-20 to 24](#)).



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## Can I burn used oil from businesses?

You cannot burn used oil from businesses in your space heater, unless you or the business has information that shows that the used oil meets the specification levels found in OAC rule [3745-279-11](#). Usually the demonstration that the used oil meets the specification levels in OAC rule 3745-279-11 is made by analysis of a representative sample of the used oil for the constituents listed in the rule. We have limited information on the cost of analysis, however we do know that at least one laboratory has done all of the parameters including total halogens according to EPA testing methods for around \$200 per sample. The demonstration can also be made by obtaining copies of analyses or other information documenting that the used oil fuel meets the specification.

In addition to meeting the specification, generally the used oil that you collect from businesses cannot be mixed with hazardous waste. If you or the business you want to take used oil from want to know more about these subjects our guidance entitled "[Burning Used Oil in a Space Heater - For Businesses](#)" should help.

## Contact

For more information, contact the Hazardous Waste Compliance and Inspection Support Unit of the [Division of Environmental Response and Revitalization](#) at 614-644-2924.