Greetings!!

How to manage used oil

Waste oil is a byproduct of any running engine. In the hotel industry, waste oil is usually generated from the servicing of the generators and the vehicles. The waste oils contain harmful compounds. Therefore, based on research it has been found that one litre of used oil can contaminate one million litres of water. Because of this, used oil is classified as hazardous waste thus the need for responsible collection and disposal to avoid contamination of our environment.

The proper collection and storage of used oil

Waste oil finds its way into our water table through disposal in drains and storm water drains and or being poured directly onto the ground. Sometimes the oil also comes to contact with soil as a result of motor vehicles repair done on a non-concrete surfaced garage. To prevent this, drain oil into a clean container with a tight-fitting lid so that it cannot spill out, such as a reusable storage metallic container. It’s also a good practice to have all the oil contaminated parts stored in a separate storage container pending disposal via a licensed handler to reduce any possibilities of oil pollution.

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. The illustration below represents makeshift storage vessel used for storage of oil contaminated parts at one of our ecorated facility.

Always clearly label the storage container as “Used Oil.” Keep these containers under a rain proof structure to avert any chances of the used oil mixing with rain water as oil that is contaminated with water is far more difficult to recycle. Build a bund wall around your used oil storage tanks/ containers so that in the event of a spill or leak, the used oil will be contained. Ideally store them away from heat or sources of ignition.

Ensure that you do not mix used oil with other fluids such as kerosene, petrol, diesel etc. Mixing them may make them non-recyclable as well as very hazardous and flammable.

**The proper design of garage to manage waste oil**

An environmentally sound garage is needed for effective management of all the waste oil spillages during repairs. Because of this, the following have to be included at the design stage of a garage.

✓ The garage must have a concrete floor to contain all the waste oil spillages.
✓ A flowing drainage channel included to help in the cleaning of the floor.
✓ An oil interceptor that collects all the oil from the drainage water.
✓ A soak pit that collects all the waste water from the cleaning after it shall have been passed through the oil interceptor.

With all the above considered and integrated in the design, all the waste oil from the garage as a result of spillages shall be contained effectively.

Finally, used oil generated from a facility should be collected and recycled by a licensed handler who is qualified to handle such waste in an environmentally compliant and safe manner.

To play a part in solving the problem of oil pollution, facilities need to adopt the best practices highlighted above in the handling of their waste oil. This will in turn help in keeping our ecosystems safe.