

Let's Talk Trash

LTT - Used Oil: For all of us who use oil and antifreeze to make our vehicles, generators and machinery run, there's good news on the recycling front as the Lasqueti Depot is getting an oil collection locker!

BC Used Oil Management Association (BCUOMA) is a non-profit with the mission to provide an eco-friendly and cost effective way to dispose of materials accepted in their program while also keeping everyone safe. Each year, through public recycling stations and certified oil change shops, approximately 50 million litres of oil and 3 million litres of antifreeze are collected and responsibly managed by BCUOMA at no additional cost to the consumer when they drop these off. (We are paying for this program through disposal fees added into the cost of oil/antifreeze products so isn't it really free, though there is no cost at the time of disposal.)

The best (and only) thing to do with used motor oil is recycle it. It is the safest, most cost effective way to reclaim the value of motor oil. Pouring it down the drain or onto the ground contaminates the water and soil.

What can be collected?

- Any automotive anti-freeze, petroleum or synthetic crankcase oil, engine oil, hydraulic fluid, transmission fluid, gear oil, heat transfer fluid or other fluid used for lubricating machinery or equipment.
- Oil filters (no gasoline filters). Any spin-on or element oil filter used in hydraulic, transmission or internal combustion engine applications including diesel filters.
- Any plastic containers with a capacity less than 30L manufactured to hold oil or antifreeze.

What happens with the materials collected?

- Used oil is re-refined (that's a real word) into new lubricating oil. It's also used as fuel in pulp mills, cement plants and asphalt plants as an alternative to newly extracted petroleum.
- Used antifreeze is reprocessed to produce new automotive antifreeze.
- Oil filters are crushed and taken to steel mills to manufacture into reinforcing steel (rebar, nails, wire), and
- Plastic oil and antifreeze containers are made into new oil containers, drainage tiles and parking curbs.

The Lasqueti oil and anti freeze collection bin will arrive in early October. Kelli, will barge it from Powell River. Then, once it's set up and the depot workers are trained, Mark will put out a notice that collection can begin.