



## Fact Sheet – Environmentally Preferable Purchases

### Re-Refined Motor Oil

Version 1.0, Green Team Approval Date: 19 April 2011 Implemented: 28 April 2011

**City of Spokane Environmentally Preferable Purchases (EPP) Policy # 0040-10-07 requires all City of Spokane Departments to:**

- 6.3.1 Evaluate each EPP designated by the Purchasing Division to determine the extent to which the product may be practicably used by the department and its contractors.
- 6.3.2 Purchase recycled products with the maximum amount of recycled material practicable.
- 6.3.3 Ensure that contracts issued by the department require EPP whenever practicable.
- 6.3.4 Ensure that contracts issued by the department for recycled products require the maximum practicable amount of recycled material and that contractors provide certification of this content and report amounts used.

#### **Ordering:**

Purchasing sources below have met purchasing guidelines; no need for quotes.

1. City of Spokane Fleet Services (625-7777)
2. WA State Contract (contact Purchasing 625-6403)

Other vendors may be used (see Resources/References #2 on back).

#### **Tips:**

*Get the most out of the petroleum based oil products you buy -*

1. Use re-refined motor oil whenever possible.
2. Use oils with a 25% or more re-refined oil base (see Resources/References #3)
3. Avoid contaminating used oil with other fluids and cleaners
4. Send used oil to a state licensed recycling company.

#### **Benefits (+) and Considerations (-)**

- Re-refined motor oil usage
  - + Reduces virgin motor oil use
  - + Closes the loop by creating markets that stimulate and support local motor oil recycling industries
  - + Creates greater demand for recycled motor oil
  - May cost more until greater demand reduces market costs.
- Recycling motor oil
  - + Reduces motor oil manufacturing impacts, i.e. virgin crude oil refining, including use of toxic chemicals.

### **Background:**

- The City of Spokane has been using re-refined oil at Fleet Services since **2009**.
- Oil does not wear out, it just gets dirty. This means that used motor oil can be re-refined endlessly into the same high quality lubricant. According to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), it takes 42 gallons of crude oil, but only 1 gallon of used oil, to produce 2.5 quarts of high quality motor oil. (see Resources/References #4)
- In light of the harmful consequences of improper disposal and use of used oil, and its value as a resource, the Legislature declares that the collection, recycling, and reuse of used oil is in the public interest (see Resources/References #5).
- Auto manufacturers must honor vehicle warranties if the motor oil in use has the API symbol on the product. Vehicle and engine manufacturers such as Ford, GM, Chrysler, and Mercedes Benz have all gone on record to state that using API-certified re-refined oil does not affect warranty coverage (see Resources/References #4).

### **Standards:**

- Re-refined oil is subject to the same stringent refining, compounding, and performance standards as virgin oil. (see Resources/References #3)
- The American Petroleum Institute (API) has licensed qualified re-refined oil products, which display the API starburst and /or donut symbol (see Resources/References #3). These criteria include cold start and pump-ability, rust corrosion, engine wear, high temperature viscosity, deposit and phosphorus (see Resources/References #4).
- No independent third party environmental standards exist for re-refined motor oil. (see Resources/References #4).

### **Contacts:**

Purchasing Division: Thea Bremer, Buyer II, 625-6403

Environmental Programs: Deborah Bisenius, Environmental Analyst, 625-6961;

### **Resources/References:**

1. City of Spokane Environmentally Preferred Purchases Policy Admin 0040-10-07; 11/17/2010; [City of Spokane - Policies and Procedures](#)
2. City of Spokane Purchases of Goods and Services under the Public Bid Dollar Thresholds Policy Admin 0040-10-03 Revision Effective Date February 6, 2010; [City of Spokane - Policies and Procedures](#)
3. EPA Vehicular Products Guide, 2007, <http://www.epa.gov/epawaste/consERVE/tools/cpg/pdf/vehicle.pdf>
4. Washington Department of Ecology Environmentally Preferred Purchasing Fact Sheet Re-Refined Motor Oil, <http://www.ecy.wa.gov/pubs/1007020.pdf>
5. Revised Code of Washington 70.95I, Used Oil Recycling.
6. American Petroleum Institute, <http://www.api.org/aboutoilgas/motoroil/>

