



CALIFORNIA ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY NEWS RELEASE

Department of Toxic Substances Control

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DTSC high-efficiency oil filter study shows promising results

SACRAMENTO – “Used oil is the largest volume of hazardous waste generated in California. California motorists alone generated 100 million gallons of waste oil in 2005. By testing the effectiveness of high efficiency filters to extend motor oil change intervals, we can determine if the used oil waste stream can be reduced,” said Department of Toxic Substances Control (DTSC) Director, Maureen Gorsen.

Gorsen’s comments were made upon the mid term review of a study conducted by DTSC’s Pollution Prevention and Technology Development Program. The program has installed high-efficiency oil filters in over 100 state vehicles from several departments and is currently tracking performance over the course of one year. Participants in the study include; CalTrans, the Department of Corrections, Department of General Services, Department of Forestry, UC Davis, and school districts of Fresno and Long Beach.

Initial results of the study indicate that high-efficiency filters clean engine oil better than standard filters, which extends the useful life of the motor oil. By extending oil drain intervals, oil purchase costs and waste oil volumes and management costs are reduced.

A recent report by the USDOE required by the Energy Policy Act of 2005 states that reducing the generation of used oils should be the primary effort, followed by recycling used oils in re-refining systems. “By putting high-efficiency oil filters to the test, the State is taking a leadership role in evaluating new technologies that may have significant benefits reducing the generation of waste oil, reducing oil imports and reducing the cost of operating state vehicles,” said DTSC Director Gorsen.

California State agencies purchased approximately 225,000 gallons of motor oil in 2003 for a fleet of 70,000 vehicles. If the oil change intervals could be extended by using these filters, an annual cost savings of \$500,000 and a decrease in waste oil generation of 100,000 gallons a year could be achieved.

For more information, contact DTSC Public Information Officer Carol Singleton at (916) 255-6578 or visit www.dtsc.ca.gov.

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The Department of Toxic Substances Control is a department of the California Environmental Protection Agency. DTSC’s mission is to restore, protect, and enhance the environment and ensure public health, environmental quality and economic vitality by regulating hazardous waste, conducting and overseeing cleanups, and developing and promoting pollution prevention.