

Oily Rags and Absorbent Pads

Although not considered Hazardous Waste, Oil, oil rags and absorbent pads remain under state and federal regulation as a Universal Waste and must be handled appropriately. Oil soaked absorbent pads and rags should always be stored in an appropriate container (see photo), constructed for storage of used oily rags & pads.



Fireproof 5/gallon container with flip-top lid

- 1- If the pads/rags are dry and do not have wet oil on them, they may go directly to the trash for regular pick up by Custodial Services. These are not considered a hazardous or universal waste.
- 2- If the lab is creating significant quantities of oily rags/pads, contact the [CoE Director for Safety](#) or [EH&S](#) to set up a regular service with a UW contracted vendor. Significant quantities would be filling a 5-gallon bin four or more times a year.
 - a. EH&S will pick up oily rags/as a courtesy if the bin is filled less than four times a year.
- 3- For EH&S to pick-up, the rags/pads will need to be bagged (garbage bag will work), sealed (duct tape is appropriate), and labeled "Oily rags/pads".
- 4- Submit a [pick-up request](#) to EH&S Waste Services for the bagged rags/pads. They will come to the lab for pick-up.
- 5- If there is liquid oil in the bottom of the can, that will need to go into a sealed container and marked, "Used Oil". Do not label the container as "Waste Oil". The oil can be submitted on the same pick-up request as the bagged rags/pads.

Oil Filters – Should be drained into the waste motor oil and disposed of at [Fleet Maintenance](#) to be crushed with their used oil filters.

Motor Oils – Containers used to collect used motor oil must be labeled "Used Oil". The [Chemical Waste/Surplus Pickup Request Form](#) must be submitted to schedule pick-up.