

## **New law bans landfilling of used oil filters and absorbents**

A new law bans the landfilling of used automotive oil filters and oil absorbent materials as of January 1, 2011. The ban covers everyone in the state, including homeowners, farmers, businesses, industrial operations, and others.

The oil filters and absorbents ban is intended to keep these materials out of Wisconsin landfills. Each year, Wisconsinites throw away an estimated 187,000 gallons of oil in used oil in oil filters and 1.6 million gallons of oil in oil absorbents. Oil is a valuable, reusable material. By recycling filters and absorbent material, used oil can be extracted and reused. Filters also contain steel components that can be recycled. Recycling the approximately nine million filters that currently enter the landfill will save over 4.5 million pounds of steel for reuse.

Recycling options for oil filters and oil absorbent materials are available throughout the state. Many businesses that perform oil changes will accept used oil filters. Some communities allow used oil and oil filters to be collected at their waste transfer stations or at specific collection sites. Contact your local recycling program for more information. To find other recycling options in your community, see the [Wisconsin Recycling Markets Directory](#). Used filters may also be used as a fuel supplement in an approved municipal solid waste combustor.

Oil absorbent materials may be taken to an approved biopile at a landfill, used as a fuel supplement in an approved municipal solid waste combustor, or recycled. To find recycling options in your area, see the [Wisconsin Recycling Markets Directory](#), select the "Other Materials" category, and select oil absorbents.

For more information on the ban, including a list of covered materials and links to recycling options, see the [DNR website](#). The DNR has also developed a [media kit](#) to explain the ban to the media. Contact [Kate Cooper](#) at (608) 267-3133 with additional questions.