

Question: “...*what brand of test kit do you find is the most popular among other municipalities? I am looking at the Clor-D-tect 1000 by Dexsil as I don't want chlorinated solvents mixed in the used oil. Are you aware of anything better that covers a wider range of contaminants?*”

Answer:

DES cannot recommend one brand over another, but as it turns out, I am not aware of any other companies that happen to make those types of test kits (though it is possible). The Clor-D-tect “total halogens” test kit you mention is a popular item (that type of test kit is normally grant fundable). Unfortunately, I’m not aware of other such kits that are more comprehensive in scope (though we have experimented with “voc sniffers”, they are not grant fundable at this time). Still, a total halogens field test, along with visual screening and perhaps an **ignitability test**, is a good start to proper screening (noting that non-chlorinated hazardous wastes would go undetected in a total halogens test).

Also, grants *can* assist with the purchase of signs, promotional campaigns, and or educational efforts that hi-light the importance of “not mixing” used oil with other materials. Sometimes oil is improperly mixed by citizens who just don’t know any better and/or who do not have another outlet for their wastes. Collecting oil only in clear, plastic, screw-top jugs (one gallon capacity) is a common practice that helps the “screening process” (and helps to ensure that you are not collecting untested commercial oil).

Other

- In some cases grant funds can also be directed toward laboratory analysis costs to test DIY used oil.
 - Yearly Grants can help pay to ship off up to two drums of DIY used oil sludge deemed undesirable for burning (typically due to water and sediment content). Funds available are dependent upon current state contract allowances (please call for rates prior to shipment).
 - Up to \$750/year can be applied toward routine servicing/cleaning charges related to DIY UO fueled space heaters. Additional burners funds may be requested for major work and/or unusual “non routine” repairs. Funds can be requested for work to be accomplished within one year of an eventual award date. Funds can also be requested for work done within the past 365 days. Of course, spill kits, absorbents, safety funnels, containment units, pop-up gauges, drums, filter bins, transfer pumps, filter crushers, drum cradles, tanks, sheds, and other equipment can also be purchased using grant funds.
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Rough Field Tests: I can not vouch for the accuracy of these tests! And common sense must be used (such as with the ignitability test). Still, these simple tests *might* help you to screen your used oil.

Ignitability:

Obtain sample using a Q-tip type swab.

Step away from the oil container **and other potential ignitables**.

Move a match/lighter slowly to the Q-tip.

If the Tip ignites without touching then the flashpoint is likely less than 140 degrees

(note: the Haz Waste standard minimum flash is 140 F, but the Used Oil for Recycle standard is lower at 100 F. However, typically, used oil has a flash higher than 200 F).

Black, sooty flame can indicate aromatic hydrocarbons/naphth....

Halogens (Note: remember to not hand-hold penny while heating!)

Dip copper wire or penny in sample; Heat the wire/penny.

If flame or residue is blue-green then halogens are present.

Note: These are crude tests at best. They can be helpful screening tools where other methods are not available. But, understand that to “pass a field test” doesn’t mean that the same material would pass a “laboratory test”.