

A new law (beginning January 1, 2011) **bans the disposal of used automotive oil filters and oil absorbent materials in all Wisconsin landfills**. The ban includes homeowners, farmers, businesses, industrial operations and others. The oil filters and oil absorbents ban is intended to keep these materials out of Wisconsin landfills and out of landfill leachate collected at landfills and often treated at municipal wastewater treatment facilities.

Filters also contain steel components that can be recycled. Recycling the approximately nine million filters that currently enter landfills will save more than 4.5 million pounds of steel for reuse.

“Each year, Wisconsinites throw away an estimated 187,000 gallons of oil in used oil filters and 1.6 million gallons of oil in oil absorbents,” says Jack Connelly, solid waste program coordinator for the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources Waste and Materials Management Program. “ Oil is a valuable, reusable material. By recycling filters and absorbent material, used oil can be extracted and reused.”

Many businesses that perform oil changes will accept used oil filters, but call ahead to make sure they do, what they want them brought in, to find out if there is a fee and what their hours are to accept filters.

More information on the ban, including information on what the ban covers, is available at http://dnr.wi.gov/news/mediakits/mk_oil_filters_absorbents.asp on the WIDNR website.