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Used oil: Its economic disposal & storage

By TERRY RUCHEK

NAPLES, Fla. — Disposing of used oil has been taken to the utmost — yet simple — level at Collier’s Reserve Country Club here.

Golf Course Manager Tim Hiers said he and his staff have “upgraded and improved some of our original ideas and concepts” for the Natural Resource Management Center at the second golf course which is being built at Collier’s Reserve.

“The handling of our used oil is unique,” said equipment manager Mike Koopman, “as we have a utility sink inside the shop area, with a hinged cover that we made in-house. We simply put our used motor, hydraulic and gear oils and oil filters into the sink, allowing the oil filters to com-
pletely drain.

“When drained, the filters are stacked into a special barrel in an orderly fashion so we can store as many as possible.”

The filters are disposed of properly every four to six months, Koopman said.

The used oil is pumped into a 240-gallon storage tank located outside the shop area through a double-diaphragm air-
operated pump, with an on/off valve on the right side of the sink,” he said.

On the left side of the on/off valve is an air

filter, “luber,” to keep the pump lubricated and a pressure gauge and adjustable regulator to monitor the normally operated 35- to 40-PSI air
pressure to operate the pump.

A strainer in the bottom of the sink

safeguards the 1-inch-diameter, steel-
reinforced rubber hydraulic hose that
goes from the sink to the storage tank,
from getting plugged up. This hose is
closed in a PVC pipe just in case it
ever ruptures, as the used oil would
then be contained instead of spilling
onto the ground.

On the outside storage tank, there
is an upper door that has access to
the pump and the quick coupler that
is used to suck the used oils out of
the tank. On the outside of the upper
door is a sight glass that shows how many inches
of used oil are in the
tank. It registers from
zero to 46 inches, and
the tank must be
emptied at the 40-inch
level, Koopman said.

“Whe

When we

service some of
our equipment,”
he said, “we use
a 5-gallon portable oil caddie, mounted
on wheels, that has a quick disconnect
with a suction tube in the bottom of it
that hooks up to a similar quick
disconnect at the bottom of the sink so
it can be emptied efficiently and
cleanly.”

Safety Kleen, who obtains any
needed permits, transports Collier’s
Reserve’s used oils.

“It is important to note that only
used oils are used in our used-oil
recovery system,” Koopman said.

Any used anti-freeze/coolant is
disposed of in a separate barrel and
recycled by a separate recycling
company.”