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CIRCLE #111



Used oils placed in a square blake container. Used oil filters are disposed of properly as well.

Used oil: Its economic disposal & storage

By TERRY BUCHEN

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 completely 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 enclosed 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



Used oil is pumped into an outside container and then hauled away.

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.

"When we service some of our equipment," he said, "we use a 5-gallon portable oil caddy, 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."



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