



ROSE REPORT

RECYCLING OIL SAVES THE ENVIRONMENT



ILLEGAL DUMPING OF USED OIL – A CONCERN FOR ROSE

By Lihle Mqayi

The ROSE Foundation regularly receives reports and complaints from the general public about informal used-oil generators and collectors who dump their used lubricating oil in an illegal and non-environmentally friendly manner. This remains an ongoing concern for ROSE as used oil is extremely harmful to the environment and the illegal dumping of used oil or oil contaminated water is a hazard to the well-being of people and the survival of our natural environment.

Used oil is governed by the National Environmental Management: Waste Act, 2008.

The South African authorities are working hard to try and punish illegal activities - the Green Scorpions have successfully prosecuted and charged a used oil

collector for the illegal dumping of used oil in the Durban area. The collector was fined R200,000 with R150 000 being suspended pending any other illegal actions the collector may be involved in.

Recently, the Daily News reported on a used oil generator who intentionally dumped used oil illegally. The generator was fined R5,000 on the spot by the local municipality. However, not everyone is facing the law - In Gauteng, at taxi ranks and other informal workshops, informal mechanics are throwing out used oil in an irresponsible manner, but no-one has been implicated or charged for this obvious dumping.

We have a viable used oil recycling industry that the ROSE Foundation is working hard to support so that it can reach its full potential, increasing job opportunities and financial benefits to the sector. We are hoping that with the growth of the used oil industry, the illegal dumping of used oil will decrease as those who previously dumped used oil recognise the environmental and financial benefits of taking the oil to be recycled, rather than illegally dumping it where it can harm the ecosystem.

Individuals who pollute the environment threaten the future for the next generation. We all have to take responsibility for keeping our environment free of pollution, and to report those who do not adhere to the laws and legislation to the authorities so that they can be prosecuted. The law needs to strongly clamp down on offenders, with a zero tolerance approach.



MEET SHAUN'S WASTE

Shaun's Waste Oil was founded by Edward Small in 2011 and as a relatively young business within the industry, the organisation has a reputation that has grown from strength to strength.

Operating in Cape Town, Edward and his wife Gillian run all aspects of the business themselves. Edward goes out every day in a one-ton bakkie to collect used oil from customers, while Gillian handles all the administration for the business.

"Since we started the business our reputation has grown and our name has become known in the industry. From the early days, we had to chase customers and oil, now we enjoy a steady and loyal relationship with our clients."

However, Small says the industry is proving challenging at the moment as more unregistered collectors enter the industry and offer unsustainable amounts for used oil in order to secure the business.

"Clients are increasingly looking for more money for their used oil, and so will choose an unregistered collector paying more per litre, over an audited and registered collector who can offer the proper legal paperwork. This has had an effect on many registered used oil collectors."

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“Shaun’s Oils will continue to deliver our standard, high level of service to our customers, with the knowledge that they are remaining compliant with current legislation and hope that other generators will start to realise that using non-registered used oil collectors runs the risk of non-compliance and possible prosecution.”