



GREEN PURCHASING CASE STUDIES: REREFINED MOTOR OIL KEEPS CITYFLEET RUNNING GREEN

CITY OF PORTLAND, BUREAU OF PURCHASES
SEPTEMBER 2008



CityFleet uses 100 percent rerefined motor oil in medium and heavy duty vehicles.

PURCHASING GREEN

Since 2000, CityFleet has used 100 percent rerefined motor oil certified by the American Petroleum Institute (API) for medium and heavy duty vehicles, including diesel vehicles, pick-ups, and light trucks. Additionally, City Fleet

sends its used motor oil to a local company to be rerefined again or used as fuel oil. In a typical year the City recycles 16,000 gallons of used motor oil.

BENEFITS

Producing rerefined motor oil uses less energy and less crude oil than producing virgin motor oil. Rerefined motor oil requires 50 to 85 percent less energy to produce than virgin motor oil. Additionally, it takes 42 gallons of crude oil, but only one gallon of used oil, to create 2.5 quarts of motor oil.

Motor oil never wears out; it only gets dirty, allowing it to be rerefined an unlimited number of times. If the 1.3 billion gallons of waste oil generated each year in the U.S. were recycled, we would save half the annual output of the Alaska Pipeline.

COST

CityFleet pays slightly more for rerefined motor oil than virgin motor oil. However, CityFleet feels that the price difference is negligible, especially given the environmental benefits of using rerefined motor oil.

AT A GLANCE

WHO

CityFleet

WHAT

100% rerefined motor oil

COST

💰 Cost slightly more

BENEFITS

- ✓ Requires less energy
- ✓ Conserves crude oil
- ✓ Can be recycled an unlimited number of times
- ✓ Relies on a local company

PERFORMANCE

CityFleet has found that rerefined motor oils perform as well as or better than virgin motor oil. In fact, both virgin and recycled motor oils are subject to the same performance standards by the API. Lab and field tests conducted by the National Institute of Standards and Technology, the U.S. Army, the U.S. Department of Energy, the U.S. Postal Service, and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency demonstrate that the quality of rerefined and virgin motor oils are equivalent.

Since warranty requirements are generally based on performance criteria rather than the origin of the oil, concerns that using rerefined oil will void manufacturer warranties are not an issue. Chrysler, Ford, and General Motors have even issued written statements ensuring customers that using rerefined motor oil will not void warranties.

“Rerefined oil is a reliable product. Not only does it meet API requirements, but it also benefits the environment by reusing a product that would otherwise be disposed of.”

Don Taylor
Assistant Manager, CityFleet

LESSONS LEARNED

API does not distinguish between rerefined and virgin motor oils – it certifies based on performance only, not origin. Therefore, it is important to confirm the percentage of rerefined content with vendors. CityFleet uses 100 percent rerefined motor oil, but other percentages exist. Ask suppliers about options, and aim for the highest percentage of rerefined motor oil available.

ABOUT CITYFLEET

CityFleet’s six repair facilities maintain Portland’s 2,850 vehicles and equipment. This includes parking patrol vehicles, sedans, pick-ups, vans, police sedans, dump trucks, back hoes, and heavy construction equipment. They perform oil, lube, and filter changes; emission inspections; and engine, transmission, drive train, electrical, suspension, heating, cooling, and air conditioning diagnoses and repairs. CityFleet garages are also certified [Eco-Biz Automotive Shops](#), a designation that recognizes their commitment to minimizing their environmental impacts.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

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