Used Oil Filters

Used oil filters must be thoroughly hot-drained of all oil prior to disposal. Hot-draining generally means draining oil close to or at engine temperature. Oil filters must be gravity hot-drained by one of the following methods 1) Puncture the filter anti-drainback valve or the filter dome end and hot drain for 12-24 hours; 2) Hot drain and crush; or 3) Dismantle and hot-drain. Filters that have been gravity hot-drained by one of these methods can then be placed in the trash.

Correct:

✓ Hot-drain, crush, split, and/or process oil filters by other means to remove the oil from the filter.
✓ Keep processed filters in a separate container labeled “Used Oil Filters.”
✓ Put oil drained from filters into your used oil container.

Incorrect:

✗ Do Not put undrained filters into the trash.
✗ Do Not put terne plated (an alloy of tin and lead) oil filters in the dumpster. They are considered hazardous waste due to the lead content.

For more information concerning the proper management of used oil filters or to arrange for their disposal, contact Frank Stillo in the Dept. of Environment, Health, and Safety at 919-962-5723, 919-962-5507, or via email at fjstillo@ehs.unc.edu