

Biodiesel Facility

Permits Fact Sheet- Small Scale

With the increased interest and accessibility in producing renewable non-petroleum (or reduced petroleum) based fuel, more individuals are beginning to manufacture their own biodiesel. Whether the biodiesel is for your own use or you intend to sell it, there are regulations that you need to follow. You should know about these regulations before beginning. Environmental issues, proper handling of waste, time spent and costs incurred are important factors to consider.

Small-Scale Biodiesel Producers "Small-scale" biodiesel makers are those that produce biodiesel to use for their personal vehicles (not for business). If you are required to obtain a local or state permit to manufacture the biodiesel you will have to complete a State Environmental Policy Act (SEPA) checklist. Check with your city or county to see where you should submit the checklist.

Production at this level for personal consumption is below the level of regulatory concern for Air and Water Quality Discharge permits. However, there are other permits and/or approvals that may be required. Note that if you intend to sell the biodiesel you produce, there are additional permits and licenses required.

The permits, regulations, and licenses required for biodiesel production are separated into two parts.

- The first section addresses those who intend to make biodiesel for their own personal use.
- The second section is for those who intend to sell the biodiesel they manufacture.

If you are manufacturing biodiesel for your farm you may be exempt from certain permits; however, you should contact the appropriate agencies for verification.

Personal Use If you intend to manufacture biodiesel for your own use contact the following agencies for possible permit requirements:

1. The local fire marshal: For regulations regarding storage tanks, as well as the type, location, quantity, and concentration of chemicals stored on a property. Depending on the above factors there are certain fire permits that may be required.
2. The city or county: Contact your local permitting department. You may require zoning or land use permits.

Commercial Sale If you intend to manufacture small amounts of biodiesel to sell commercially you are subject to more regulations. To find out what you may require contact the following:

1. The local fire marshal: For regulations regarding storage tanks, as well as the type, location, quantity, and concentration of chemicals stored on a property. Depending on the above factors there are certain fire permits that may be required.
2. The county or city: An industrial zoning permit may be required. If you are within 200 feet of a shoreline or within the 100-year floodplain you may require a Shoreline Permit. Depending on the county that you live in there may be building permits.
3. Contact your local clean air agency or the Department of Ecology Air Quality Program; you may need an air quality permit called a Notice of Construction (NOC) permit.
4. Depending on the amount of wastewater ("wastewater" means water and wastes discharged from homes, businesses, and industry to the sewer system) you are discharging during the biodiesel process your business may require a State Wastewater Discharge Permit or National Pollution Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) Permit from the Department of Ecology.
5. Contact the Department of Licensing regarding the Special Fuel Blender license and tax form if you intend to blend your biodiesel. The link to the license and tax information is: <http://www.dol.wa.gov/forms/441750.pdf>.
6. If you hire someone to collect used oil for you that person is required to get a Common Carrier Permit from the Washington Utilities and Transportation Commission (UTC). If you collect the oil yourself you do not require this permit.
7. The biodiesel you produce for commercial sale must meet American Society for Testing and Materials (ASTM) standards and your fuel dispensers must meet regulatory requirements for accuracy and labeling. For more information go to <http://agr.wa.gov/FP/Pubs/docs/332-Biofuelqualityandlabelingbrochure.pdf>.
8. You must register your commercial fuel dispensers when you apply for or renew your Master Business License. The Department of Agriculture carries out the state's Weights & Measures and Motor Fuel Quality programs. Contact them at (360) 902-1857 or wtsmeasures@agr.wa.gov.

Biodiesel Facility

Permits Fact Sheet- Small Scale

Health, Safety and Environmental Considerations

- Contact your local waste water treatment facility to verify which chemical types and amounts can be put down the drain. You may be liable if your discharge affects their system.
- It is illegal to dispose of any pollutant into a storm drain, ditch, sewer, stream or the ground.
- It is illegal to put anything other than domestic wastewater into a septic system. Do not put any biodiesel or chemical byproducts into a septic system.
- If you produce a bad batch of biodiesel contact a used oil hauler to collect it. The following link has information on hazardous waste and used oil collection facilities within Washington:
<http://www.ecy.wa.gov/programs/hwtr/hwfacilities/index.html>.
- For information on how to dispose of chemicals or products contact your local health department or solid waste utility. The following link provides Department of Health contact information for each county:
<http://www.doh.wa.gov/LHJMap/LHJMap.htm>.
- The area where you manufacture biodiesel should have proper ventilation to protect yourself from fumes. Check with the local fire marshal or clean air agency for specific details.
- Biodiesel reactors should be a closed system not open to the environment.
- Always wear safety goggles, chemical resistant gloves, and a chemical resistant apron when working with any chemicals.
- Keep children and animals away from the processing area.
- Have a spill kit and fire extinguishers on site.
- Have proper storage for chemicals and biodiesel:
 - Chemicals should not be stored near heat or ignition sources.
 - Chemicals should be stored with secondary containment, such as a small container within a larger container.
 - Chemicals should be stored in High Density Polyethylene (HDPE) or other compatible storage containers.
 - Label containers with what is inside and purchase or batch date.
- Be knowledgeable about the chemicals you are using. Mixing certain chemicals can be dangerous.

Contact Information If you have any other questions about environmental permits for small-scale biodiesel, contact the Office for Regulatory Innovation and Assistance at (800) 917-0043 or help@oria.wa.gov.

If you require this document in another format, contact Office for Regulatory Innovation and Assistance. Persons with hearing loss can call 711 for Washington Relay Service. Persons with a speech disability can call (877) 833-6341.