



A guide to self reliant living

[SITE INDEX](#)



[2. Meals](#)

[3. Water](#)

[4. Sanitation](#)

[5. Medical, health](#)

[6. Kerosene heaters and cookers](#)

[7. Lighting](#)

[8. Wood cooking and heating](#)

[9. Communi-cations](#)

[10. Essential Tools](#)

[11. Home built items](#)

[12. Electrical; generators and power](#)

[13. War preparedness](#)

[14. Gardening](#)

[SITE INDEX](#)

[Miles Stair's SURVIVAL SHOP](#)

[HOME](#)

[RADIATION INDEX & JET STREAM](#)

CLEANING USED ENGINE OIL

In hard times in the past, many people have cleaned their own engine oil so their internal components wear out from the use of old, dirty oil. Because it is a simple process to do, and may be necessary for you that information now. Once implanted in your mind you will never forget this process. If you remember me.

Engine oil does not wear out. It becomes contaminated with grit and combustion residue, and the additives that give it action and anti-foaming dissipate. Cleaned oil will also lack those additives, but if used at a ratio of one quart of new oil, sufficient additives will be present to work while also stretching your supply.

The concept of cleaning used engine oil is based on the capillary action of natural fibers and gravity. A clean natural fiber rope (cotton, hemp, sisal, etc) contains hollow fibers. When oil passes through the cells of the fibers the contaminants are trapped in the cells, while the oil passes through readily. A rope about 3 1/2 feet long is best: anything else will work, but slows the process considerably. The oil passes through the rope all by itself, and that is where we use both the capillary action of the fibers and gravity.

The typical system is to use two 1-gallon glass containers, like used wine jugs (A visit to your local recycling site, a little pilfering, and a trip to confession usually does the trick.) One of the bottles is full of used oil, the other one will receive the cleaned oil.

Now that you have the bottles you will know how tall they are, so a rack must be built. One side of the rack must be high enough so that the bottom of one bottle is at the same height as the top of the other one. A rack high enough to hold the bottles securely will work, so this is not a complicated procedure.

Then the bottle full of used oil is put on the top shelf, the empty one on the lower shelf, side by side. A rope is placed down to the bottom of each bottle. The rope must form a nice hoop from one bottle to the top of either bottle. If necessary, straight pins may be used to hold the rope in the middle of the bottles. The rope must not be pinched. (It is less messy to get the length of rope and the exact placement of the rope before you start one with oil.)

The oil will climb up the rope by capillary action, through the loop, then start down toward the empty bottle. As it passes the bottom of the upper bottle, gravity will begin to take effect and the oil will start flowing into the lower bottle faster. After a couple of weeks almost all of the oil will be in the lower bottle -- and clean!

Now for the "fly in the ointment." As this process takes several weeks at a minimum to complete, it is important not to contaminate the oil. That means building a housing to cover the rack and bottles. This is a simple job, for example, thin lath, for example, and covering the lath with clear plastic. The clear plastic sheeting will keep the process happening, otherwise the suspense would drive you nuts.

When the process is complete, the oil soaked rope can be burned. In the old days, the oil soaked rope was buried around the base of gate or corner fence posts, and the slowly seeping oil would kill any termites in the important posts considerably. Now, however, the EPA would probably have you shot on sight for burning a nasty oil soaked rope.

CAUTION: All oil is not created equal. Engine oil is NOT a rust preventive oil. If you need to protect your products against rust (as in buried storage), a real rust preventive oil must be used. The best product I know of is NAPA brand "Chain and Cable" lubricant. It comes in a spray can and sprays on a thick foam. The foam dissipates into an oil and penetrates into the pores of the steel. After awhile wipe the item carefully with moisture-proof material, then seal the seams against any water infiltration.

