



Waste Antifreeze

When is waste antifreeze regulated?

Antifreeze drained from motor vehicles, watercraft, aircraft, and industrial equipment may present a risk to human health or the environment if handled improperly. If the used antifreeze must be reclaimed before it can be reused as antifreeze, will be disposed of, or will be used for another purpose, it is regulated as a waste in Minnesota. The Minnesota Pollution Control Agency (MPCA) and the Minneapolis-St. Paul metropolitan area counties (Anoka, Carver, Dakota, Hennepin, Ramsey, Scott, and Washington, i.e., “Metro Counties”) regulate management and disposal of waste antifreeze.

In Minnesota, used antifreeze that is reused as antifreeze without first being reclaimed is not considered a waste.

Is waste antifreeze a hazardous waste in Minnesota?

If you follow the three management practices below, you may assume that some of your waste antifreeze is not a hazardous waste.

1. Segregate used antifreeze that looks like it contains oil or smells like it contains gasoline, antifreeze from vehicles and equipment with damage to their cooling systems, and antifreeze from vehicles or equipment with other damage likely to cause cross-contamination of the antifreeze. Manage this contaminated antifreeze as a fully regulated hazardous as described below.
2. Accumulate the rest of your antifreeze in closed containers clearly labeled with the contents, for example, “Waste Antifreeze” or “Antifreeze for Recycling.” You may assume this antifreeze is non-hazardous if you keep the records described below.
3. Keep records of the amount of antifreeze in both categories above and the final management method – disposal or recycling, including recycling or disposal receipts. Keep the records for three years from the date of disposal or recycling.

If you do not follow these management practices, you must assume all your waste antifreeze is hazardous waste.

Manage hazardous waste antifreeze according to all hazardous waste requirements, unless you evaluate it for, at a minimum, heavy metals and benzene contamination and document that it is non-hazardous.

For more information about waste evaluation, see MPCA fact sheet #w-hw1-01, [Evaluate Waste](http://www.pca.state.mn.us/publications/w-hw1-01.pdf) at <http://www.pca.state.mn.us/publications/w-hw1-01.pdf>.

Disposing of waste antifreeze

Whether or not your waste antifreeze is hazardous, you may not place it in the solid waste, in a stormwater drain, in a subsurface sewage treatment (septic) system, mix it with used oil, or let it drain to the ground.

The MPCA strongly recommends recycling waste antifreeze.

If you generate less than 600 gallons of waste antifreeze a year, you may have the option to discharge the waste antifreeze to the sanitary sewer. To do this, you must do all of the following:

- First, notify the receiving Publicly Owned Treatment Works (POTW – your local sewage treatment plant) of your intended antifreeze discharge.

- Next, comply with any discharge limitations, conditions, and prohibitions required by the POTW.
- Finally, keep records of how much used antifreeze you generated and when you generated it. Keep the documentation for three years from the date you generated the waste.

Recycling waste antifreeze

Non-hazardous waste antifreeze may be recycled on or off site. If shipped off site for recycling, it may be transported without using a hazardous waste manifest.

If recycled on site, assume the resulting filtercake, sludge, or stillbottoms are hazardous waste unless you evaluate them and document they are non-hazardous. Do not mix them with your used oil.

You may, however, manage antifreeze recycling filters with used oil filters provided you notify your used oil filter vendor and they do not prohibit it. See MPCA hazardous waste fact sheet #w-hw4-30, [Used Oil and Related Wastes](http://www.pca.state.mn.us/publications/w-hw4-30.pdf) at <http://www.pca.state.mn.us/publications/w-hw4-30.pdf>.

Hazardous waste antifreeze must be shipped off site using a hazardous waste manifest. For information about manifesting, see MPCA fact sheet #w-hw1-07, [Manifest Shipments of Hazardous Waste](http://www.pca.state.mn.us/publications/w-hw1-07.pdf) at <http://www.pca.state.mn.us/publications/w-hw1-07.pdf>.

More information

Guidance and requirements in this fact sheet were compiled from Minnesota Statutes, Chapter 115A, and Minnesota Rules, Chapter 7045, and incorporate regulatory interpretation decisions made by the MPCA on October 18, 2007. To review Minnesota Statutes and Rules, visit the Office of the Revisor of Statutes at <https://www.revisor.mn.gov/pubs>. The MPCA and your Metro County have staff available to answer waste management questions. For more information, contact your Metro County hazardous waste office or your nearest MPCA staff.

Metro County Hazardous Waste Offices

Anoka	763-422-7093
Carver	952-361-1800
Dakota	952-891-7557
Hennepin	612-348-3777
Ramsey	651-266-1199
Scott	952-496-8475
Washington.....	651-430-6655
Websites	http://www.co.[county].mn.us

Minnesota Technical Assistance Program

Toll free	1-800-247-0015
Metro	612-624-1300
Website	http://www.mntap.umn.edu

Small Business Environmental Assistance

Toll free	1-800-657-3938
Metro	651-282-6143
Website	http://www.pca.state.mn.us/sbeap/

Minnesota Pollution Control Agency

Toll free (all offices)	1-800-657-3864
Brainerd	218-828-2492
Detroit Lakes	218-847-1519
Duluth	218-723-4660
Mankato	507-389-5977
Marshall	507-537-7146
Rochester.....	507-285-7343
St. Paul	651-296-6300
Willmar	320-214-3786
Website	http://www.pca.state.mn.us

Minnesota Duty Officer

Toll free	1-800-422-0798
Metro	651-649-5451
Website	https://dps.mn.gov/divisions/bca/Pages/default.aspx