



# BMPs

## Best Management Practices for N.H. Solid Waste Facilities

### Antifreeze

Antifreeze contains chemicals that can be toxic to people, plants and animals. The most common antifreeze solutions are mixtures of water and either ethylene glycol or propylene glycol. Ethylene glycol is much more toxic than propylene glycol and is slowly being phased out. Both types of antifreeze must be managed and stored to prevent impacts to the environment and public health.

Instead of sending used antifreeze to an expensive hazardous waste disposal facility, recycle it. In New Hampshire, the Universal Waste Rule simplifies the requirements for managing antifreeze if you recycle it. For more information about managing waste antifreeze under the Universal Waste Rule, refer to the Universal Waste BMP Guidance Sheet or contact NHDES.

#### Best Management Practices for Waste Antifreeze

- Do not pour antifreeze into septic tanks, sewer systems, storm drains, surface waters or onto the ground.
- Store antifreeze in containers that are in good condition and will not rust, rot or be dissolved by the contents.
- If stored outdoors, place all used antifreeze containers including buckets, drums and tanks:
  - > In secondary containment (a container that can hold at least 110 percent of the volume of the largest used antifreeze container or 10% of the total volume of all containers, whichever is greater).
  - > On an impervious surface such as intact concrete or heavy duty/rigid plastic.
  - > Under cover to keep the storage container and secondary containment dry.
- Clearly label each container with one of the following phrases to show how the antifreeze is being managed: "Universal Waste – Antifreeze", "Waste Antifreeze" or "Used Antifreeze".
- Clearly mark each container or tank with the date the antifreeze was first added. Reuse, recycle or dispose of it within a year of that date.
- Keep the antifreeze containers tightly closed, except when actively adding or removing antifreeze.
- If collecting different types of waste antifreeze, use separate funnels, drip pans and containers for each type. Label your equipment to avoid mixing the wastes.
- Immediately contain and clean up all spills and leaks. Keep spill control equipment nearby.
- Before shipping any antifreeze, make sure the shipping documents have been completed and the receiving facility has agreed to receive the shipment and is authorized under state law to receive it.
- Recycle waste antifreeze to restore its quality by:
  - > Hiring a contractor to come to your facility with a mobile recycling unit; or
  - > Transporting the waste antifreeze to a "universal waste destination facility" or "universal waste handler" that will recycle the antifreeze and meets all other requirements in the Universal Waste Rule; or
  - > Purchasing the proper equipment and doing it yourself.

#### Remember...

- Ethylene glycol antifreeze is very dangerous because children and animals are attracted to its sweet odor. Drinking it can cause severe illness or death.
- Never put antifreeze in the trash, on the ground or down the drain.

**NO!**



Antifreeze containers are in poor condition and some are open. There is no secondary containment to catch spills and leaks. These containers are not stored on concrete or other impervious surfaces to prevent leaks into the environment. They are exposed to the weather and should be under a roof.

**YES!**



The closed container is in good condition, correctly labeled and stored indoors on an impervious surface.

**For additional information, contact:**  
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