

# Household Waste Management

## Household Hazardous Waste – The Management & Disposal of Antifreeze

*Information presented in this fact sheet is intended to provide a general understanding of the regulatory requirements governing the management and disposal of Household-generated antifreeze. This information is not intended to replace, limit, or expand upon the complete regulatory requirements found in Division 14 of the Alabama Department of Environmental Management Administrative Code.*

### Antifreeze Facts

- ◆ Antifreeze (commonly ethylene glycol) is added to your radiator to keep the fluid from freezing in winter and overheating in summer.
- ◆ Antifreeze has a sweet smell and taste which are attractive to children and pets.
- ◆ Recovered antifreeze is recyclable.

### Antifreeze Hazards

- ✎ Ethylene glycol is toxic to humans and animals. Drinking ethylene glycol will result in central nervous system depression followed by heart and breathing difficulty, kidney failure, brain damage, and even death. About three ounces of undiluted ethylene glycol may be lethal to humans if swallowed.
- ✎ Used antifreeze may also contain other contaminants (gasoline, oils, metals) which can be toxic to animal life.

### NEVER:

- ! Dispose of antifreeze on the ground, in storm sewers, or in septic systems with drain fields.
- ! Dispose of antifreeze in a sanitary sewer without permission from the local wastewater treatment plant.
- ! Mix used antifreeze with other wastes since this may make it impossible to recycle.

### Preferred Practices

- ✓ Replace antifreeze only when necessary.
- ✓ Purchase only the amount of antifreeze needed to maintain your vehicle.
- ✓ Save and reuse good antifreeze when removing it for repairs
- ✓ Store leftover antifreeze in its original, labeled container and make sure the lid is secure.
- ✓ Store antifreeze out of reach of children and pets – under lock and key is best.
- ✓ Use recycled antifreeze in vehicles.
- ✓ If an antifreeze spill or leak occurs, clean it up immediately using an absorbent such as kitty litter.

### Disposal\*\*

In Alabama, waste generated by a household is exempt from regulation as a hazardous waste. Although a municipal landfill is an acceptable method of disposal for waste antifreeze, other options for disposal should be investigated in order to divert antifreeze away from land disposal. Alternatives to land disposal include **reuse**, **recycling**, and **household hazardous waste collection programs**. Some businesses accept used antifreeze from do-it-yourselfers for recycling. If you must dispose of waste antifreeze, absorb the liquid with a non-biodegradable absorbent such as sand or kitty litter prior to placement in a landfill.

\*\* This information does not apply to wastes generated by business and/or industry

### Additional Information on the Internet

US Environmental Protection Agency - Household Hazardous Waste: (<https://www.epa.gov/hw/household-hazardous-waste-hhw>)