

# ANTIFREEZE, USED OIL, AND OIL FILTERS



## Thurston County Business Pollution Prevention Program

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## USED ANTIFREEZE

Antifreeze is a Washington State dangerous waste due to its toxicity. If your business produces waste antifreeze, you have two options: recycle it or dispose of it as dangerous waste. Recycling can be reusing the antifreeze at your establishment or send it out to be recycled. Remember that on-site recycling units may produce a sludge that needs to be managed as hazardous waste.

## ANTIFREEZE MANAGEMENT

Don't mix antifreeze or used oil with other materials such as water, brake fluid, solvents, or gas. Label waste antifreeze containers and keep them closed (animals are attracted to the sweet odor of antifreeze – and it's very toxic). Don't accumulate large volumes since you will need to provide secondary containment for all of it. Maintain your disposal and/or recycling paperwork for five years (longer if possible).

## USED OIL

Used oil can be recycled if it is not contaminated with other chemicals, such as chlorinated solvents, antifreeze or too much water (>10% of volume). If your used oil is contaminated, it can't be recycled and needs to be managed as a dangerous waste.

In Thurston County, your options for used oil management are:

- ◆ Have a licensed waste oil vendor pump out your used oil drums or tanks for recycling
- ◆ Recycle your used oil on-site in an approved space heater or boiler (see WAC 173-303-515)
- ◆ Dispose of as hazardous waste at a hazardous waste facility or through a licensed vendor

Used oil space heaters must be designed with specific requirements. You can only burn your own oil, do-it-yourself used oil, and on-specification used oil without having to notify Ecology as a used oil burner. For questions concerning off-specification vs. on-specification used oil and requirements, including testing, contact the Department of Ecology's Southwest Regional Office Hazardous Waste and Toxics Reduction Program (360-407-6340).

If your business recycles its used oil and antifreeze, then these wastes do not count towards your dangerous waste generator status and do not need to be reported to Ecology.

## USED OIL FILTERS BEST MANAGEMENT PRACTICES

Thurston County encourages businesses to recycle their used oil filters whenever possible but it is also acceptable to dispose of used oil filters along with solid waste after they are fully drained (drain for 24-48 hours). Crushing your oil filters gets more of the oil out and may save you money since many recycling companies set their rates by volume. Most recycling companies accept both crushed and whole filters, but you should inquire about this service prior to selecting a vendor. Thurston County's Waste and Recovery Center will accept up to one 55-gallon drum of crushed or uncrushed used oil filters for solid waste disposal per business each year.

For more information, including how to set up a free on-site technical assistance visit:

📞 [thurstoncountywa.gov](http://thurstoncountywa.gov)

✉️ [PHSSPollutionPrevention@co.thurston.wa.us](mailto:PHSSPollutionPrevention@co.thurston.wa.us)

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