

## Managing spent antifreeze in an Underground Storage Tank (UST)

### If I manage or store spent antifreeze in an UST, do the UST regulations apply?

It depends. If the antifreeze is **recycled**, the UST regulations apply.

If the spent antifreeze is mixed with another dangerous waste or is not recycled as explained below, the storage of spent antifreeze in an UST is regulated under the dangerous waste regulations 173-303 WAC and not regulated under the UST regulations.

### In regulatory terms, how is spent antifreeze classified?

In this document, the term “antifreeze” means ethylene glycol-based coolant, which is used as a heat exchange medium in motor vehicle radiators, motorized equipment, or other industrial processes. It is regulated as a hazardous substance by the Department of Ecology (Ecology). If spent antifreeze, which has not been mixed with another dangerous waste, is recycled by being reclaimed or reused (i.e. not burned), its storage in an UST is not subject to full regulation under WAC 173-303.

If you have questions about the antifreeze you are storing in an underground storage tank, contact Toxics Cleanup Program (TCP) staff at your regional Ecology office (See back page for region phone numbers).

### How should I label my spent antifreeze storage tanks?

You must identify the product stored in the tank and its major risk, but it does not need a dangerous waste label. The labeling requirements are met by placing the labels “SPENT ANTIFREEZE” and “TOXIC” on the tank lids or adjacent to where the substance is added and removed from the tank.

### Dangerous Waste

In Washington, spent ethylene glycol is considered a “Dangerous Waste” under WAC 173-303. Per this regulation, persons storing spent antifreeze for recycling are required to do the following:

1. For five years, maintain records of the volumes stored.
2. Label the waste, as described on the left.
3. Store the spent antifreeze in a manner that prevents releases to the environment.

If the spent antifreeze is being stored for purposes other than recycling, it is subject to the applicable requirements of WAC 173-303.

### Contact information

Kristopher Grinnell  
(360) 407-7382  
kristopher.grinnell@ecy.wa.gov

### Accommodations Requests

To request ADA accommodation including materials in a format for the visually impaired, call the Toxics Cleanup Program at (360) 407-7170.

Persons with impaired hearing may call Washington Relay Service at 711. Persons with speech disability may call TTY at 877-833-6341.

**Are there other options for storing spent antifreeze?**

Spent antifreeze can be stored in other compatible containers such as aboveground storage tanks, drums, or totes. Remember to keep the container closed, labeled, on an impermeable surface, and in an area where secondary containment is installed.

**How will owners and operators be notified if a spent antifreeze UST should be registered with the state and follow specific operational and maintenance requirements?**

When an Ecology inspector visits a site, he/she will determine if the spent antifreeze tank is regulated by the UST regulations. If the tank is subject to, and out of compliance with, the state’s UST regulations, the owner/operator will be given a schedule to bring the tank into compliance. Another option is to permanently close the tank. If the schedule deadlines are not met, Ecology may pursue enforcement and issue a monetary fine.

**What if my UST is not equipped to store spent antifreeze in a manner that complies with Washington’s UST regulations?**

Until a spent antifreeze UST is in compliance with the UST regulations, the UST’s owner/operator should not deposit and/or store any spent antifreeze into that UST. Any spent antifreeze stored in a non-compliant UST should be pumped from the tank.

The Washington state UST regulations require a hazardous substance be stored in secondarily-contained or double-walled USTs. In addition, the UST will need to be upgraded to meet spill and overfill prevention requirements. If the tank does not meet the UST regulations’ corrosion protection requirements or cannot be upgraded, the tank must be taken out of service until it can be permanently closed.

**ECOLOGY REGIONAL OFFICES**

Please contact the nearest Ecology regional office where your facility is located if you have questions related to spent antifreeze USTs or the WA UST regulations.

Headquarters: (360) 407-7170

Central Region: (509) 575-2490

Eastern Region: (509) 329-3400

Northwest Region: (425) 649-7000

Southwest Region: (360) 407-6300



*ECY 15-09-342 (12/2015) To request ADA accommodation including materials in a format for the visually impaired, call Ecology’s Toxic Cleanup Program at 360-407-7170. Persons with impaired hearing may call Washington Relay Service at 711. Persons with speech disability may call TTY at 877-833-6341.*