

Wheels: *Charles Black of Dayton Writes by e-mail: "I read your article on taking used oil to service shops and auto parts stores and I have always been able to do so at no charge. But I am having a problem finding a place to take used antifreeze. Only one place will accept it if I pay six dollars per gallon of 50/50 mix. I only paid nine dollars per gallon for new 100% antifreeze. Do you know any place less costly and preferably free? I have thought of a couple of ways to dispose of it and I would like your opinion. One is to spray it into a barrel when I burn brush. Another is to dilute it more and put it into my backpack sprayer when I spray weed killer on fence rows on my farm. I would appreciate your views."*

Halderman: Thanks for writing as this is a good question. I have heard and read several different options regarding this issue which included the following:

1. It is acceptable to flush a small quality of antifreeze down the toilet where it will enter the sanitary sewer system.
2. It is NOT acceptable to spread on open ground where it could get into the drinking water wells.
3. The environmental protection agency (EPA) states that all used antifreeze needs to be tested to determine if it is hazardous, but then states that all used coolant (antifreeze and water combination) should be considered to be hazardous unless otherwise tested to be not hazardous.

I do know that by talking to automotive instructors who teach automotive courses in California, that if even a drop of antifreeze is spilled on the floor of the shop that it has to be considered hazardous waste and a specialized company has to be called to dispose of it in an environmentally correct manner. What would I do? I would not dispose of used coolant on open ground from a sprayer or any other method. I would call your local sanitary department and ask them about disposing of antifreeze coolant into the sanitary sewer system. If this is not possible in your area, I would continue to call around to shops and parts stores to determine who will accept used antifreeze. Also call your local government (city or county) because they often have locations where hazardous waste materials such as old paint cans, chemicals and batteries can be taken so that they can be disposed of correctly.

