

Offsite Antifreeze Recycling

One of the most common methods of antifreeze recycling is hiring an offsite recycling service. Offsite recycling may not be the most economical choice for antifreeze recycling, but for many businesses it is the easiest. There are a wide variety of businesses that perform such services, varying only slightly in service provided and price. Some allow you to 'buy back' recycled antifreeze at a discounted rate and others act simply as middlemen for the larger antifreeze recycling plants.

If your business uses an offsite antifreeze recycling service, simply store used antifreeze appropriately. A one-time hazardous/non-hazardous waste determination must be done. The amount of hazardous used antifreeze generated must be included in the facility's monthly hazardous waste generation log. Non-hazardous used antifreeze generation does not need to be tracked*. Whenever necessary, or on a pre-determined schedule, the antifreeze recycling service will arrive to remove the used antifreeze.

Virgin/recycled antifreeze will need to be purchased and delivered separately. Offsite antifreeze recycling contributes to transportation-related pollution from the delivery of new antifreeze and the shipping of waste antifreeze to a recycling plant. It also adds to production-related pollution and energy consumption by both production and recycling plants. But recycling antifreeze offsite is still a smarter move than simple disposal. Antifreeze is derived from petroleum products, and is not a renewable resource. Antifreeze can be recycled and reused indefinitely, so recycling makes sense. Recycling also ensures that waste antifreeze is managed safely, that it is not improperly dumped down the drain or sewer or into a septic system, where it can contaminate drinking water.



Use our [Offsite Recycling Service Cost-Benefit Calculator \(pdf or excel\)](#) to help determine your costs associated with this type of antifreeze recycling.

* Contact the IWRC for more detailed information on hazardous waste management

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Antifreeze Recycling Worksheet – Offsite Recycling Service

Fact Sheet

CURRENT USED ANTIFREEZE HANDLING		YOUR FACILITY	EXAMPLE
A	On average, how many gallons of used antifreeze do you generate per year?		500
B	How do you currently dispose of your used antifreeze? 1. Down the Drain* 2. Recycle Onsite (Batch System) 3. Recycle Onsite (Closed-Loop System)		Down the Drain
C	How much do you currently pay per gallon for antifreeze disposal/treatment?		\$0.00
D	Has used antifreeze from your facility undergone TCLP testing?		No
E	How much money do you spend annually to purchase virgin/recycled antifreeze?		\$2,250
F	Total Current Annual Cost (A x C) + E		\$2,250
G	Total Current Cost Including One-Time TCLP Testing for Used Antifreeze: Average Testing Fee = \$425 (F + \$425)		\$2,675

* Dumping used antifreeze down the drain is not an acceptable method of disposal.

Switch to onsite or offsite recycling and contact the IWRC (at 1-800-422-3109) for additional information/assistance.

OFFSITE RECYCLING SERVICE		YOUR FACILITY	EXAMPLE
H	Cost per gallon for offsite antifreeze recycling		\$0.75
I	Total Annual Cost for Offsite Recycling Service (A x H) + E		\$2,625
J	Total Cost Including One-Time TCLP Testing Average Testing Fee = \$425 (I + \$425)		\$3,050

❖ Information derived from the fact sheet 'Antifreeze Recycling, Best Environmental Practices for Auto Repair and Fleet Maintenance,' United States Environmental Protection Agency, Department of Toxic Substances Control, November 2001.

❖❖ This worksheet is meant to give only an approximation of costs and payback periods.