

Home Auto Mechanics Prevent Pollution



Do you dismantle autos or perform extensive repairs on vehicles at your home? If so, you should be aware that you have a responsibility under the law to prevent automotive fluids from entering surface water or groundwater. There are easy ways that you can recycle the fluids and some parts from dismantled autos. There are also some important Do's and "Don'ts."

Do not

- Drain any fluids onto the ground.
- Mix waste fluids.
- Put anything down the drain or into sewers.
- Cut any air conditioning lines or remove any refrigerant (Freon).

Do

- Drain fluids into labeled containers.
- Work over a concrete or asphalt surface.
- Call your county household hazardous waste program to learn what materials your county will accept.
- Keep tires in a dry place until recycled.
- Contact a tire recycler to check on requirements for tire acceptance.
- Store batteries in a dry place until recycled.
- Have refrigerant (Freon) removed by a certified technician at an auto repair shop.
- Buy kitty litter or sawdust for cleaning up oil spills.
- Prevent spills.
- Clean up any spill immediately.
- Check with your city, town or village to find out how long you can store an unregistered vehicle on your property.



Recycle oil at a service station that annually sells at least 500 gallons of oil, or at a retailer that annually sells at least 1,000 gallons of oil. You can bring up to five gallons of used oil per person per day to either of the above at no charge if the used oil is from maintaining or repairing your personal vehicles. Used oil from vehicles used for non-personal reasons must be brought or sent to an authorized used oil storage

or recycling facility by a party authorized to transport used oil.



Recycle lead-acid batteries at a retail store or distributor that sells new batteries. Retailers and distributors must accept, free of charge, up to two used batteries per month from any individual. You can also contact a battery recycling facility.



Recycle drained oil filters at a scrap metal dealer. (See "Scrap Metals" in the yellow pages.)



Recycle tires at an auto recycling facility, tire dealer, or waste tire storage facility permitted by the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation.

Reuse antifreeze, fuel and window washer in personal vehicles.

Contact your county **Household Hazardous Waste Program** about recycling antifreeze, brake and transmission fluids, power steering fluid, and trunk and hood mercury light switches:

- Allegany County: 585-268-9230
- Genesee, Livingston, Orleans, and Wyoming Counties: 585-344-4035 or 800-836-1154
- Monroe County (can accept materials from other counties and from small businesses for a fee): 585-760-7600, option 3; www.monroecounty.gov/environment/hhwaste3.stm
- Ontario County: 800-836-7678

You can also obtain information from the following sources:

- New York State Department of Environmental Conservation: www.dec.state.ny.us; Region 8: 585-226-2466; Region 9: 716-851-7220
- Publication: www.dec.state.ny.us/website/reg8/press/autorec/autorec.html; click on "Auto Recyclers Guide."