

Automotive Maintenance Products

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F A C T S

If you service your own automobile, you may be producing hazardous wastes. Many of the products commonly used for automobile maintenance contain hazardous ingredients. The vehicle maintenance products discussed here can be potentially harmful if used, stored or disposed of improperly.

- Used transmission fluid contains environmentally toxic heavy metals, including lead.
- Brake fluid is a poison and, if ingested, may cause central nervous system depression and kidney failure.

Storage of Transmission Fluid

1. Store used fluid in a plastic container with a tight-fitting lid.
2. Clearly mark what is in the container and store on a high shelf out of the reach of children and pets.
3. Do not mix with used motor oil or other automotive products.

Transmission Fluid

Transmission fluid, used to lubricate automobile transmissions, is mainly composed of mineral oil. Transmission fluid is flammable at high temperatures and relatively non-toxic unless swallowed or aspirated (sucked into the lungs during swallowing or vomiting). Used transmission fluid contains environmentally toxic heavy metals, including

lead. The heavy metals in used fluid can cause severe nervous system damage to wildlife and other animals if disposed of improperly.

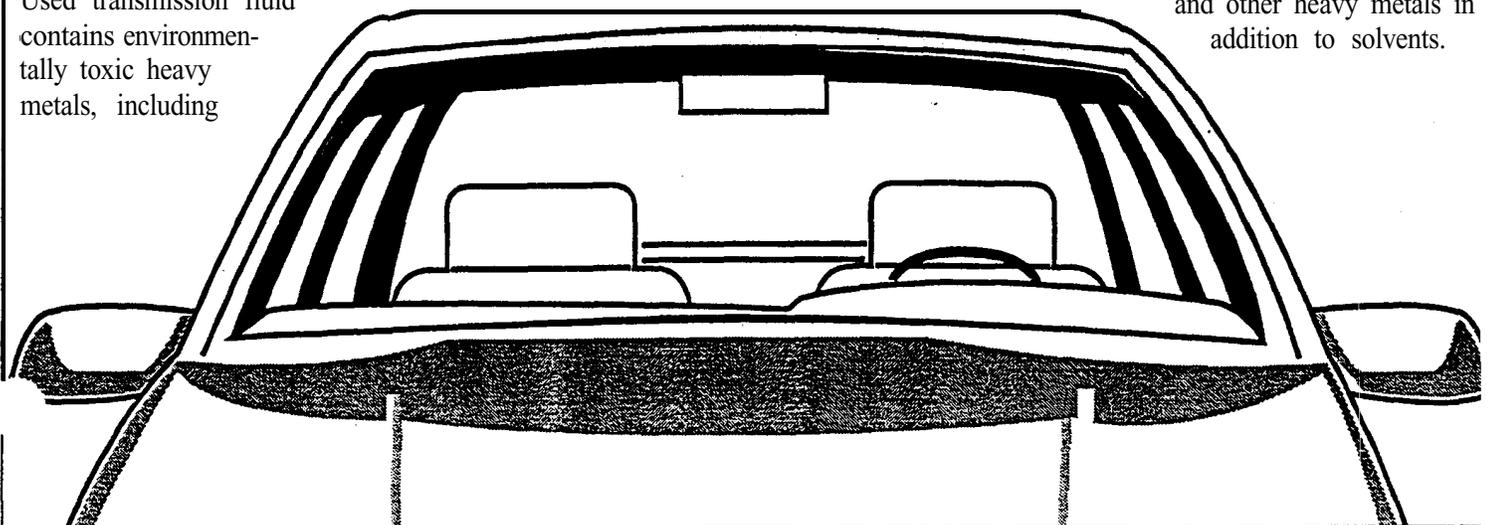
Disposal of Transmission Fluid

If not contaminated with other products, used and

unused transmission fluid may be accepted for recycling at local service stations that also accept used motor oil. Call your local solid waste management district (listed under county government) for outlets.

Brake Fluid

Brake fluid is a flammable product which contains solvents in the form of glycols. Brake fluid is a poison and, if ingested, may cause central nervous system depression and kidney failure. Used brake fluid contains lead and other heavy metals in addition to solvents.



These heavy metals can cause an environmental danger if disposed of improperly.

Disposal of Brake Fluid

Brake fluid should be disposed of by a licensed hazardous waste handler or saved until a professional household hazardous waste collection is available. Contact your local solid waste management district office (listed under county government) for information.

Storage of Brake Fluid

1. Store out of reach of *children*.
2. Store away from flames and sources of ignition.
3. If the metal can in which the brake fluid is stored begins to rust, place the metal container inside plastic container and label the outside container.

Antifreeze

Antifreeze contains chemicals (such as ethylene glycol) which are poisonous to humans and pets. Pets are attracted to puddles of sweet-tasting antifreeze. Each year, thousands of dogs and cats are poisoned by discarded antifreeze. Proper disposal of used antifreeze on a street or

down a storm sewer also can pollute lakes and streams.

Recycling of Antifreeze

Used antifreeze can be recycled. Although Recycling centers for used antifreeze are not widely available, some service stations, mass transit systems, and businesses that maintain large pools of vehicles recycle antifreeze. Before disposing used antifreeze, call your local solid waste management district office to find out if anyone in your community recycles it. Do not mix antifreeze with used oil. Mixing oil with antifreeze makes the oil almost impossible to recycle.

Disposal of Antifreeze

The hazardous chemicals in antifreeze can be broken down in most sewage treatment plants. If you cannot recycle the antifreeze and your home is connected to a sanitary sewer system you may flush used antifreeze from your automobile down the toilet or sink. Be sure to wash it down the drain with plenty of water.

If your wastewater goes into a septic system, do not pour used antifreeze down your toilet or sink. Antifreeze can inhibit organisms in a septic system, causing damage to the system. In this case, ask someone who is connected to a sewer system to dispose of your antifreeze for you.

Empty antifreeze containers should be thoroughly rinsed before disposal. The rinsewater should be flushed down the drain in a home connected to a sanitary sewer.

Windshield Wiper Solution

Windshield wiper solution may contain methanol, detergent and water. Because of its hazardous nature, windshield wiper solution is required to have a child-proof safety cap. The most toxic windshield wiper solutions contain 100 percent methanol. Methanol is highly toxic and readily absorbed by inhalation or skin contact.

Use and Disposal of Windshield Wiper Solution

Gloves should be worn when adding windshield wiper solution to your car. Windshield wiper solution should be stored away from children and pets, and the safety cap should be securely fastened. Whenever possible, windshield-wiper solution should be used up as intended. Products containing methanol should be disposed through a household hazardous waste collection program. Do not pour windshield wiper solution containing methanol down the drain or storm sewer, or dispose of it in your trash.

For a safer alternative to a methanol-containing solution, mix three parts vinegar to one part water. This mixture also will keep windshields ice and frost-free when you have to leave your car outside in the winter.

Ohio Environmental Protection Agency

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Columbus, Ohio 43228-9644
(614) 644-2621

Public Interest Center
1800 WaterMark Dr.
Columbus, Ohio 43215-1099
(614) 644-2160

Central District Office
3232 Alum Creek Dr.
Columbus, Ohio 43207-3417
(614) 728-3778

Northeast District Office
2110 E. Aurora Rd.
Twinsburg, Ohio 44087
(216) 963-1200

Northwest District Office
347 North Dunbridge Rd.
Bowling Green, Ohio 43402
(419) 352-8461

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2195 Front St.
Lorain, Ohio 43138
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Southwest District Office
01 East Fifth St.
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