# These Recommendations Do Not Apply to Businesses

Doing your own vehicle maintenance and repair can save you time and money, but automotive wastes are generated which you need to properly manage. If handled or disposed of improperly, these wastes can harm you, your family, pets or the environment. This pamphlet is designed to help households manage these wastes properly.

# DISPOSAL



**Used Oil and Oily Fluids** The following fluids can be managed in the same manner: brake fluid, power steering fluid, transmission fluid and motor oil. In North

Dakota, it is illegal to put used oil into the garbage. Used oil should not be poured down drains (inside or outside), into a storm sewer, or on the ground. This can cause ground water contamination and/or operational problems with the septic system or the local sanitary sewer system. Used oil should not be burned in wood stoves or fireplaces, because it produces toxic vapors. The above fluids should be recycled. Some automotive shops will take do-it-yourselfer used oil. Contact your local solid waste department to see if there is a used oil collection tank in your community. Or call the Division of Waste Management for additional assistance.

Never mix solvents, paint or antifreeze with your used oil. Once mixed with these products, it is very difficult or impossible to recycle used motor oil.

### **Used Oil Filters**

Where it's practical and cost-effective, empty used oil filters should be collected for recycling. Scrap metal dealers in your community may accept used oil filters for recycling. If you don't have any facilities in your area that recycle used oil filters, here are a few steps you should follow: drain oil filters overnight (12 hrs) into drip pan to collect oil residue; place the used oil filter in a leakproof container (coffee can with a lid or resealable plastic bag); and, take the filter to a recycling center or place in trash.

### **Used Oil Spill Material**

Used oil soaked into old carpet and cardboard placed under cars, or floor dry soaked with used oils, can be thrown away. If practical, place oil-soaked materials into plastic garbage bags and put floor dry in plastic bag-lined boxes. **Gasoline and Other Fuels** (includes fuels from lawn and garden equipment) Use up as an engine fuel. Strain old gasoline through a filter, dilute by one half with fresh gasoline and use up in your lawnmower. Some used oil collection sites will allow you to mix the old gasoline with your used oil. Check prior to disposal. As a last resort, let the gasoline evaporate in a well-ventilated area away from pets, children, and heat sources.

## Antifreeze

NEVER put antifreeze into a septic tank or storm sewer. If the antifreeze cannot be reused, given away, or recycled, then read and follow the product's label for the manufacturer's instructions on proper disposal. If you live in a city with a sanitary sewer, call the city wastewater plant for permission to sewer your antifreeze.

### Lead-Acid Batteries

In North Dakota it is illegal to dispose of lead-acid batteries in landfills. They must



be recycled. Under state law lead-acid batteries must be accepted as trade-ins for new lead-acid batteries by any person who sells lead-acid batteries at retail. Used batteries may be dropped off at battery wholesalers or retailers, or a collection or materials processing facility that accepts batteries.

### Windshield Fluid

Use it up or give it away. As a last resort, if you are connected to a city sewer system, flush small amounts that DO NOT contain methanol down an inside drain (toilet preferable) with lots of water.

## **Degreasers, Starting Fluids and Deicers**

If these cannot be used up or given away, then read and follow the product's label for the manufacturer's instructions on proper disposal. If recycling is not feasible, then the waste can be solidified and disposed of in a permitted municipal waste landfill. To solidify fluids, mix with enough absorbent material such as cat-box filler to soak up all liquids completely. Place the solidified material in a bag or wrap in newspaper before disposing in a landfill.

### Vehicle Touch Up Paint

Use it up or give it away. If that is not an option, dry them out and place in the trash. Dry paint can be safely disposed in landfills.

# **Recycling Resources**

There are several communities in North Dakota that have full-time household hazardous waste collection sites or periodic household hazardous waste collection events. Contact your local community officials to see if there is one near you.

#### North Dakota Automotive Recyclers Association (NDARA) PO Box 777

Valley City, ND 58072 701.845.3080

North Dakota Solid Waste Recycling **Association (NDSWRA)** PO Box 3241 Fargo, ND 58108-3241 701.298.6944

# **Additional Information**

- \* Community Health Departments
- \* NDSU Extension Agents
- \* Tribal Waste Management Officials
- \* Community Public Works Officials
- \* USEPA

For more information on household hazardous waste contact:



ND Department of Health Div. of Waste Management 918 E. Divide Ave., 3rd Fl. Bismarck ND 58501-1947 701.328.5166

Or, visit the Department of Health website at: www.ndhealth.gov/wm

#### Household Automotive Wastes

Used Oil Gasoline Lead-Acid Batteries Antifreeze





North Dakota Department of Health Div. of Waste Management

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