



CLEAN BOATER TIP SHEET

SPRING START-UP: ANTI-FREEZE COLLECTION AND DISPOSAL

Spring is in the air and you are anxious to launch your boat for the season. What do you do with the used anti-freeze? Help keep our lakes and rivers clean and healthy by following these steps for proper anti-freeze collection and disposal. Foremost, make sure you always use propylene glycol anti-freeze (pink, blue or clear) rather than the more toxic, green ethylene glycol anti-freeze.

Why is it illegal to discharge anti-freeze into Wisconsin waters?

Although propylene glycol (pink, blue or clear) anti-freeze is safer, it still can be harmful to fish and other aquatic life, especially when multiple boats flush their engines and holding tanks near boat docks, which are close to the spawning grounds of many species of fish. Waste anti-freeze also can contain heavy metals or fuel from engines that can classify it as hazardous waste. Anti-freeze dumping in open waters has been known to cause fish-kills.

Anti-freeze Collection and Disposal Tips

Engine

1. Begin at a location away from open waters.
2. Check your bilge and clean out any oil if present with a bilge pillow or absorbent pad.
3. Attach a hose directly to your intake port (inboards and some inboard/outboards) or use a flushing kit (ear muffs) for engines without a port. Attach the other end of the hose to a water source. Attach a second hose over the exhaust port and place the other end into a 5 gallon bucket or hold a bucket to catch the anti-freeze as it exits the engine. Have another 5 gallon bucket ready to switch the hose when the first bucket is full.
4. Turn on the water and start your engine. Collect the water and anti-freeze mix in the two buckets, and then let the remaining water drain on the ground until the engine is up to temperature.
5. Turn off the engine and water.

6. Dispose of the diluted anti-freeze at a marina or automotive center that accepts and recycles anti-freeze. The initial 5 gallon bucket may contain anti-freeze suitable for reuse next winter. If recycling is not available, pour into a sanitary sewer (toilet or basement drain) that goes to a local sewage plant for treatment. **Do NOT pour it into a storm sewer.** These discharge directly into streams, lakes or wetlands. Never dump it in a septic system.
7. If you notice any water or oil leaks during this process, your engine may need service.

For boats with large engines, do not try to flush antifreeze on your own. Please take your boat to an experienced service technician.

Freshwater Holding Tank

1. Connect a hose to the sink faucet or place a funnel with a hose attached under the faucet and place the other end into a 5 gallon bucket.
2. Turn on the faucet and start filling the bucket.
3. Collect the anti-freeze until the water runs clear.
4. Dispose in the same manner as #6 above.

Sewage Holding Tank

In spring use the head as usual and pump out when needed. This anti-freeze and sewage mix will go directly to a sewage treatment plant.

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- 🧽 Now you're off to a great start to the boating season.
 - 🧽 Thanks for taking a little time and effort to keep our waters clean and to protect fish spawning grounds.
 - 🧽 Make sure you have your updated boater registration and appropriate safety gear.
 - 🧽 Find more tip sheets for cleaner boating at <http://www.wisconsincleanmarina.org/Default.aspx?tabid=61>