

Proper Antifreeze Disposal

Keeps Our Waters Clean

Antifreeze is essential to our cold weather travel, but it also presents a potential problem. Just a few drops of antifreeze carelessly spilled on a driveway or street can harm the environment and endanger the health of neighborhood pets.

These puddles, even when quite small, not only harm neighborhood pets, but also destroy vegetation and fish living in area streams, such as the Salt River, Otter Creek and Mill Creek. Antifreeze has a high Biological Oxygen Demand (BOD) which depletes the oxygen needed for fish, plants and other animals to live, disrupting the ecosystem.

While suburban driveways may seem a long distance from the banks of Ohio River, chemicals and debris left on the streets of any residential and commercial areas in Radcliff ultimately end up in our underground and above ground streams.

When it rains, water washes over streets, parking lots and driveways and flows directly down the nearest storm drain. The storm water runoff sweeps up everything in its path including leaves, litter, lawn chemicals, pet waste, garbage and puddles of antifreeze.

The runoff travels through the storm drains and drainage ditches, then empties into "channels" that lead to major streams, rivers, and underground streams. These waterways discharge their contents into the Salt River, Ohio River and the Mississippi River.

It is important to properly dispose of used antifreeze, which has picked up lead and other materials from the engine and radiator. In conjunction with the City of Radcliff, Hardin County holds periodic household waste collection events to collect and dispose of potentially harmful materials. To obtain additional information about these collection events, contact the Radcliff Public Works at 351-8150.

If you change your own antifreeze, make sure all spills are thoroughly cleaned up. Clean all spills and properly dispose of the rags used to wipe up the spills.

For more information about storm water pollution and how to keep our environment clean, call Radcliff City Hall at (270) 351-4714 or visit our website at www.radcliff.org.

