

# Quick Guide - AdBlue removed from End of Life Vehicles (ELV)

Quick guide344\_18

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## What's this document about?

This guide provides some brief background and information about how to check if AdBlue is present in an ELV. It also explains when AdBlue is and is not waste and the pollution risks from AdBlue.

## Who does this apply to?

Environment officers and others who are regulating ELV sites who may get queries about the storage and handling of AdBlue

## Contact for queries and feedback

- [Tania Tucker](#) - Senior Advisor (020302 56785)
- Please give [anonymous feedback](#) for this document.

## Contents

AdBlue - what is it?.....	2
AdBlue - how do you tell if ELV contains it? .....	2
AdBlue - pollution risks.....	2
AdBlue - is it waste?.....	3

## AdBlue - what is it?

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### What is AdBlue?

AdBlue is a liquid containing urea that is widely used in catalytic reduction systems. It typically costs between £1.10 - £1.50 per litre.

Selective catalytic reduction (SCR) involves injecting precise amounts of a fluid into the vehicle exhaust gases to break down NOx emissions, converting them to nitrogen and water to meet stricter exhaust emission limits for vehicles with diesel engines..

AdBlue has been used in commercial vehicles for a number of years and it is now being widely used in models of diesel cars that meet the Euro 6 emission standards.

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## AdBlue - how do you tell if ELV contains it?

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### How do you tell if an ELV has an AdBlue tank?

In cars the AdBlue tank is typically around 20 litres. The location of the tank varies, but is often close to the diesel tank, in the boot, or in the engine compartment. It can usually be identified by a blue cover.



There are a few ways to identify if an ELV has an AdBlue tank and therefore has additional depollution fluids to remove. Indicators include:

- An AdBlue filler cap either next to the fuel filler, in the boot or under the bonnet
  - 'Blue' or 'SCR' in the model name;
  - 'urea' or 'AdBlue' indicator lights on the instrument panel;
  - Drivers handbook if one is present;
  - Information on International Dismantling Information System (IDIS) <http://www.idis2.com/index.php>
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## AdBlue - pollution risks

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### Pollution risks from AdBlue

AdBlue is an aqueous solution of urea which is polluting if it enters surface water or groundwater. It is soluble in water so oil separators do not contain or remove it.

Any areas where AdBlue is being removed from vehicles (or it is being stored) must have impermeable surface and sealed drainage. It is also important that AdBlue is stored in containers with valves and pipework specifically designed to store urea. The AdBlue solution contains ammonia which is corrosive to some metals, such as copper and its alloys.

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## AdBlue - is it waste?

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### When AdBlue is waste

AdBlue removed from ELVs as part of the depollution process may not be waste in certain circumstances (set out below). However, if the AdBlue is contaminated or not suitable/intended to be reused for its original intended purpose then **it will be waste**.

AdBlue is non-hazardous waste and list of waste code (EWC) 16 10 02 aqueous liquid wastes. It must be stored and collected separately from other depollution fluids.

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### When AdBlue is not waste

AdBlue removed from ELVs as part of the depollution process will not be waste if it is:

- uncontaminated; and
- suitable for reuse for its original intended purpose; and
- certain that it will be reused for its original intended purpose

This approach is similar to currently what happens with fuels and screen wash removed from ELVs and used in site vehicles etc.

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