

Province mandates antifreeze be bitter

by UPI

VICTORIA, British Columbia -- The Canadian province of British Columbia has mandated that all automotive antifreeze sold beginning in 2011 have a bitter taste to protect children and pets.

Environment Minister Barry Penner said the green fluid that leaks from radiators is hazardous, the National Post reported.

"The sweet taste of antifreeze is a major reason for the accidental -- often fatal -- ingestion of toxic antifreeze by pets, wildlife and young children," Penner said. "By making it mandatory to add an extremely bitter substance to the product, we will make it less appealing, reducing its likelihood of being consumed in significant quantities."

The government mandated the addition of denatonium benzoate to the antifreeze, which would make it taste bitter, although doesn't decrease toxicity, the report said.

Craig Daniel, chief of the province's Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals, told the Vancouver Sun his group's shelters see more than 100 cases of antifreeze poisoning each year.

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