

NOVACHEM Tech Note

Novapurge and the Environment

Despite the fact that it is a *chemical* purging compound, **Novapurge** is friendly to our environment. Proper disposal is easy and safe, either after or prior to use.

Novapurge After Use -- What is it and how do you dispose of it?

After passing through a hot extruder, the residue of **Novapurge Ready-Mix** is nothing more than a mineral-filled polyethylene. The active chemical system is dissipated entirely during the heat soak in the machine. (Call us if you want to discuss **Novapurge Concentrate** residues.)

The filler content of the residue differs slightly as a function of the processing temperature. If the machine is set at less than 400°F, the residue will consist of low molecular weight polyethylene with about 18% by weight inert mineral filler. If the processing temperature is higher than 400°F, the inert mineral filler content of the residue will be only about 15%. The difference is due to the fact that some of the filler carries chemically bonded hydrates that are lost as water vapor in heat soaks higher than 400°F.

You can dispose of this material as you would any filled polyolefin – by landfilling or by regrind for incorporation in any filled PE compound. Of course, the action of the chemical system means that the PE in the **Novapurge** residue has been broken down to low molecular weight segments and will not have good mechanical properties, but its chemical compatibility with PE is maintained. Also, the residue will of course contain some of your earlier production resin or compound (the material you were running before the use of **Novapurge**).

Novapurge Before Use -- What if we have to discard some?

In the unlikely event than you have to discard some unused **Novapurge**, we recommend that you place it in an open container, place the container either outdoors or in a well-ventilated workspace, and add ample amounts of plain water to the container.

Just as the heat in an extruder causes the **Novapurge** chemical system to break down, so does the presence of excessive moisture. After soaking the unused **Novapurge** with water, you can dispose of it as you would a mineral filled polyolefin compound. Alternatively, you can return the material to NOVACHEM for disposition. Just call first to let us know what you're doing.

*One of a series of Technical Notes designed to help users of **Novapurge** make more effective use of these products from:*

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If you have questions or suggestions for an additional TechNote please call us at:

1-800-762-3984