

Major appliances (often called white goods) are an essential part of a community recycling program. In addition to being able to be used for refurbished parts, major appliances that are removed from your landfill and properly recycled help to reduce ozone depleting substances. These substances contribute to climate change and increase the possibility of skin cancer.

**Manitoba Ozone Protection Industry Association (MOPIA)** provides support to properly manage major appliances, and helps ensure you follow the required federal and provincial regulations to decommission major appliances. (Decommissioning involves removing the dangerous refrigerants and other ozone depleting substances from the appliances.)

White goods include the following items:

- 1) Those containing refrigerants and other ozone depleting substances:
  - fridges
  - freezer
  - water coolers
  - window air conditioner units
  - dehumidifiers
  - heat pumps
  - any 115-230 volt self contained plug-in units:
    - drinking fountains
    - pneumatic air dryers
- 2) Those without refrigerants:
  - stoves
  - dryers
  - washing machines
  - other appliances with an air conditioning, refrigeration and dehumidifying function

## 1. REGISTRATION

Although there is no official registration required, the *Manitoba Ozone Depleting Substance Act* requires individuals who are decommissioning or repairing major appliances to have a certificate from the Manitoba Ozone Protection Industry Association (MOPIA). MOPIA's compliance guide outlines best practices and responsibilities of individuals and entities to ensure practices which follow provincial regulations.

However, if you ship major appliances from your community to a registered processing facility (such as Provencher Appliance in Winnipeg), the certificate is not required as some processors will do the decommissioning at their site.

- *Manitoba Ozone Depleting Substance Act:*  
<https://mopia.ca/wp-content/media/Act-MR-10394-2013.pdf>
- MOPIA's compliance guide:  
<https://mopia.ca/wp-content/media/Online-Compliance-Guide-11.01-final.pdf>

## 2. COLLECTION & TRAINING

Community members should take their major appliances to the landfill or local collection site.

Collection sites should have enough space to accommodate bulky waste and have enough room for decommissioning, if you are doing so on site. You also want the space to segregate those major appliances that require removal of refrigerants (decommissioning) and those that do not.

Once major appliances are at the landfill or collection site, there are 3 approaches to managing refrigerant containing appliances:

- 1) The appliances can be decommissioned by removing the refrigerant on site. This involves obtaining certification as described above and obtaining the special equipment needed for refrigerant removal. Once the refrigerant is removed the appliance can be recycled along with other major appliances/scrap metal.
- 2) You can contract a certified professional or company, such as another community or Provencher Appliance, to pick up the appliances and decommission them for you.
- 3) Contract a certified technician to decontaminate major appliances on site and remove decommissioned appliances with scrap metal

Best practice expressed in provincial regulation requires individuals who handle and work on any used or new refrigeration, air conditioning parts, refrigerants or equipment attached to the closed refrigeration loop to be certified through training offered by Manitoba Ozone Protection Industry Association (MOPIA). It is important to note that the certification needs to be renewed annually. In addition to having a certified technician to safely remove hazardous wastes, communities need to have the necessary equipment to remove and store refrigerants safely. You can register for training through MOPIA to become a registered technician.

- MOPIA certification training: <https://mopia.ca/training/>

Alternatives for communities that do not have a certified technician include partnering with other communities and contracting out the removal of refrigerants.

**Although appliances with refrigerants can be shipped and decommissioned at another location, the chance for a leak or damage to the unit increases significantly. MOPIA prefers recovery on-site if possible.**

## 3. STORAGE AND EQUIPMENT

White goods should have a signed and designated area, which allows easy segregation and space for decontamination as well appropriate ground cover (e.g. packed gravel) in case of leaking.

It is important to assess major appliances when accepted and before long term storage to ensure that there are no leaks. If there are leaks or spills, this should be reported immediately to Manitoba Conservation and Climate.

Equipment needed includes cut resistant gloves and a skid steer to move appliances.

If decommissioning of refrigerants is to occur on site, functional and up to date decontamination equipment and recovery equipment is required. In addition, recovery vessels should include appropriate labelling which can be found on MOPIA compliance guide under the required labels section: <https://mopia.ca/wp-content/media/Online-Compliance-Guide-11.01-final.pdf>

## 4. TRANSPORT / REMOVAL

If you are not decommissioning (removing the refrigerant) on site, you can transport the appliances to a business/contractor that will decommission for you, or the business may be willing to pick up the appliances from your community for a fee. It is important to check their pricing and ensure that they are following the required procedures and regulations.

If you plan to remove refrigerants from major appliances on site, there will be refrigerant cylinders to transport for refrigerant disposal. The cylinders used to store and transport the refrigerant for disposal must be types approved by Transport Canada. When you are ready to transport cylinders of refrigerant from your community, it must be shipped according to the *Dangerous Goods Handling and Transportation Act and Transportation of Dangerous Goods Act* requirements. A shipping document must accompany any refrigerant being shipped. Here is an excellent summary of Transport Canada's requirements for Transportation of Dangerous Goods (TDG) with shipping documents you can print if needed:

- Transport Canada's requirements for Transportation of Dangerous Goods:  
[https://tc.canada.ca/sites/default/files/2020-07/TDG\\_BULLETIN\\_-\\_SHIPPING\\_DOCUMENT\\_-\\_PDF\\_EN.pdf](https://tc.canada.ca/sites/default/files/2020-07/TDG_BULLETIN_-_SHIPPING_DOCUMENT_-_PDF_EN.pdf)

**Your community is considered the consignor (shipper) so when you fill out and/or sign a shipping manifest you are certifying the dangerous goods have been properly classified, packaged and labelled with safety marks according to the TDG Regulations.**

Major appliances with the refrigerant removed can be shipped for recycling along with other scrap metal.

## 5. RECORD KEEPING

There are several types of records that must be kept when decommissioning or collecting major appliances:

- 1) **Spills.** Any site collecting major appliances must track refrigerant leaks. Small leaks should be recorded for reporting in the technicians annual record sheets. A leak over 22lbs must be reported that day to Manitoba Conservation and Climate. A one-page leak report form must be completed and faxed in to the Manitoba Government (Conservation and Climate), or sent electronically to [ods@gov.mb.ca](mailto:ods@gov.mb.ca). MOPIA's website has a copy of this form, or call MOPIA to email or fax a Leak Report Form to you. Call 204-945-7100. Rural residents call 1-800-282-8069 extension 7100.
- 2) **Record Data Sheets.** Technicians & companies doing refrigerant removal must mail, fax or email copies of their record data sheets once per year by February 1st to MOPIA. The records should document the use of regulated substances for the period January 1 to December 31 of the previous year. Even if you have not used any regulated refrigerant or halon during the year, we need to record this within our database. Be sure to let MOPIA know your name and Certification Number or you may be "flagged" for possible investigation for not submitting records. A template of this tool can be found on the MOPIA compliance guide under Record Data Sheets:  
<https://mopia.ca/wp-content/media/Online-Compliance-Guide-11.01-final.pdf>
- 3) **Refrigerant Recovery Declaration.** Use this label when the unit has had the refrigerant recovered. This identifies it as empty and available for recycling, scrap or other purposes. These are commonly used on vehicle write-offs and major appliances. NOTE: You may purchase labels from MOPIA or design and print them independently, as long as the information label matches these samples -  
<https://mopia.ca/wp-content/media/Label-Order-Form-2021-ONLINE.pdf>

## 6. CONTACT INFORMATION

### **MOPIA (Manitoba Ozone Protection Industry Association)**

Tel: 204-338-2222

Toll free: 1-888-667-4203

Fax: 204-338-0810

Email: [mopia@mopia.ca](mailto:mopia@mopia.ca)

Website: [www.mopia.ca](http://www.mopia.ca)

### **Manitoba Conservation and Climate**

(Note: All leaks over 22lbs/10kgs must be reported. Call MOPIA to email or fax a Leak Report Form to you.)

Tel: 204-945-6784

Toll free: 1-800-214-6497

Fax completed Leak Report Form to: 204-948-2338

Email: [ods@gov.mb.ca](mailto:ods@gov.mb.ca)

## MAJOR APPLIANCES / WHITE GOODS - FISHER RIVER CREE NATION

In 2020, Fisher River Cree Nation shipped two loads (one to PureSphera and one to Provencher Appliance) of freezers and refrigerators from the landfill for proper disposal of the refrigerant they contain, and then to be recycled. To date, 50 appliances have been disposed of in an environmentally responsible way.

Freezers and refrigerators contain a refrigerant called HFC-134a, which is a greenhouse gas 1800 times stronger than CO<sub>2</sub> (carbon dioxide). If all that refrigerant in the 50 appliances was released into the atmosphere, it would have been approximately the same as driving a car 33,500 kilometres.

