



# BEST MANAGEMENT PRACTICES FOR MOTOR VEHICLE RECYCLERS



## VEHICLE CRUSHING

Crushing end-of-life vehicles can lead to environmental contamination and loss of salvage value if not properly performed. Vehicles should be completely drained of fluids and stripped of other hazardous materials before crushing. Spilling these dangerous substances can cause soil, groundwater, surface water, and storm water contamination.

Vehicles should be properly prepared before they are crushed. Preparing vehicles for crushing is time well spent. It will protect your property from becoming a source of contamination, protect the health and safety of you and your employees, and save you money. Most motor vehicle fluids can be recycled at no cost to you if they are kept separate by type. However, if you do not drain the fluids before the vehicle is crushed, you will end up with a mixture of fluids that must be handled as a hazardous waste. This requires costly disposal using a licensed hazardous waste transporter.

### TAKE NOTE ...

- ✓ Completely drain vehicle fluids before crushing.
- ✓ Crush vehicles on an impervious surface -- never on bare ground.
- ✓ Ensure that mobile crusher operators follow best management practices.

### BEST MANAGEMENT PRACTICES

#### ▶ Before crushing a motor vehicle:

- ✓ Drain all fluids (fuel, oil, radiator fluid, windshield washer fluid, etc.) over a concrete pad or other impervious surface, preferably under cover, and use drip pans to avoid spills.
- ✓ Do not mix fluids. Recycle and reuse them. Store them in labeled leak tight containers, under cover.
- ✓ Evacuate the air conditioning refrigerant, using certified equipment operated by qualified technicians.
- ✓ Remove and separate recyclable and potentially hazardous components, including the gas tank, radiator, tires, battery, catalytic converter, air bag units, and mercury switches.

- ▶ Locate the vehicle crusher on a bermed or self-contained concrete pad or other impervious surface, preferably under a roof and protected from the weather. The surface should be sloped to contain fluids. Position the crusher toward the center of the surface or concrete pad rather than near the edge.

- ▶ Make sure the crusher is fitted with a device to capture residual fluids. Collect mixed residual crusher fluids in a spill-proof container and manage the mixture as a hazardous waste.
- ▶ Do not allow fluids to spill or drip on the ground.
- ▶ Do not pour residual fluids inside the next vehicle to be crushed. Mixed fluids must be treated as a hazardous waste. Contact the DES Hazardous Waste Assistance Hotline at (603) 271-2942 for free information about how to properly manage hazardous waste.



Concrete crusher pad under construction at local yard.

- ▶ Keep the crusher drain clear so that it does not back up, clog, and overflow onto the ground.
- ▶ Clean the crusher regularly by wiping off accumulated oil and grease and removing dirt and debris from the crushing area. Properly dispose of the soiled cleaning materials and debris.
- ▶ Clean up incidental spills immediately, whether they occur on the ground or on the pad.
- ▶ If you hire a mobile crusher operator to crush your vehicles, make sure best management practices are followed and agree who will be responsible for properly disposing of the residual fluids and other hazardous wastes generated by crushing activities.
- ▶ Maintain disposal receipts from mobile crusher operators for all wastes generated and transported off-site for disposal
- ▶ Be alert and stay safe! Contact the Occupational Safety and Health Administration (telephone: (603) 225-1629) for additional guidance about avoiding injury and other hazards associated with dangerous motor vehicle crushing activities. These dangerous activities include moving vehicles with a forklift or bucket loader, running hydraulic equipment, and loading crushed vehicles onto trailers for transportation.

*This guide sheet provides general guidance only.*

## **FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION, CONTACT:**



N.H. Department of Environmental Services  
 Waste Management Division--N.H. Green Yards Program  
 29 Hazen Drive, PO Box 95, Concord, NH 03302-0095  
 telephone: (603) 271-2925; fax: (603) 271-2456  
 e-mail: [nhgreenyards@des.nh.gov](mailto:nhgreenyards@des.nh.gov)  
 website: [www.des.nh.gov](http://www.des.nh.gov)



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