

# The Dirty Dozen

Twelve Pollution Prevention Tips for Motor Vehicle Recyclers

*By doing the things listed below, motor vehicle recyclers can avoid a dozen dirty work practices that cause environmental contamination at motor vehicle salvage yards. For more information, contact the N.H. Green Yards Program for Auto Recyclers at (603) 271-2938 or [nhgreenyards@des.state.nh.us](mailto:nhgreenyards@des.state.nh.us).*

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- Check for Leaks:** Check all end-of-life vehicles (ELVs) for leaks on a regular basis, at least weekly, starting when the ELV first arrives at the facility and continuing until the vehicle is drained of all fluids. Use drip pans to keep leaks off the ground.
  - Drain Fluids:** Remove fuel, motor oil, transmission fluid, brake fluid, antifreeze, and other motor vehicle fluids for recycling, before storing the vehicles, and before customers dismantle parts at "U-Pull-It" facilities.
  - Work Over A Leak-Tight Surface:** Never drain fluids or dismantle fluid-containing parts over bare ground or exposed to precipitation and storm water runoff. Do this work only over a dry concrete or other leak-tight spill containment surface.
  - Store Fluids Properly:** Store motor vehicle fluids --separated by type--in closed, leak tight, non-breakable, properly labeled containers or tanks, either inside an enclosed structure away from drains and other openings or outside with secondary containment covered by a roof.
  - Be Prepared to Clean Up Spills:** Keep spill kits, emergency contact information, and spill response instructions wherever fluids are handled and stored.
  - Store Greasy, Oily Parts Properly:** Store engines, transmissions, vehicle fuel tanks, and other oily, greasy or fluid-containing parts --even those already drained--on a leak-tight surface protected from precipitation and storm water runoff. Never store those parts on bare ground or out in the rain or snow.
  - Remove and Recycle Batteries:** Remove batteries for recycling, and place them either in a covered storage area on a leak-tight surface or in plastic containers with lids. Stack them no more than 5 high and separate the layers with sheets of cardboard, plywood, or another sturdy non-conductive material. Properly contain cracked batteries to keep the acid from leaking onto the ground.
  - Remove and Recycle Refrigerants:** Evacuate Freon and other refrigerants by using EPA-approved equipment in good working order, and recycle or dispose of the refrigerant in accordance with federal requirements.
  - Properly Store and Actively Manage Tires:** Store waste tires either in transfer containers or small piles measuring less than 25 feet across and 15 feet high surrounded by fire lanes, and accessible to fire fighting apparatus. Do not let standing water accumulate inside the tire rims where disease-bearing mosquitoes can breed. Ship tires off-site to an authorized disposal facility on a regular basis.
  - Clean Up and Report Spills:** Clean up spills and leaks immediately. Remove contaminated soil quickly and store it in a separate labeled container for proper disposal. Report petroleum releases as required by law.
  - Good Housekeeping:** Maintain the buildings, vehicle and parts storage area, and property to reflect a clean, orderly, and safe operation. Make sure all storage and work areas accessible and able to be inspected.
  - Inspect the Facility Regularly:** Inspect the facility at least weekly to identify potential problems such as leaks, spills, and improperly stored ELVs, fluids and parts. Correct problems in a timely manner. Keep good records.
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N.H. Green Yards Program for Auto Recyclers  
telephone: (603) 271-2938  
e-mail: [nhgreenyards@des.state.nh.us](mailto:nhgreenyards@des.state.nh.us)  
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