



BMPs

Best Management Practices for Motor Vehicle Recyclers

Recovered Fuel

Gasoline and diesel fuel are hazardous because they are ignitable and contain ingredients that, even in very small quantities, can easily pollute surface water and groundwater. These ingredients include Methyl-tertiary-Butyl Ether (MtBE), benzene, toluene and xylene. Fuels also may contain chlorinated solvents, which can cause liver and kidney cancer, stomach irritation, nervous system damage, and other health problems.

When gasoline that contains MtBE spills on the ground, the MtBE moves more readily into the groundwater than other gasoline components. Because MtBE breaks down far slower than other gasoline components, and can be detected at much lower concentrations due to its unpleasant taste and odor, gasoline spills can cause real problems for property owners and their neighbors.

Recovered fuels pose not only a pollution risk to the environment, but also a safety

risk to facility employees. Handling, transferring, storing, and disposing of fuels requires special care to prevent spills, explosions, and fires as well as human health hazards from inhalation and exposure to skin.

DID YOU KNOW?

- One gallon of gasoline containing MtBE can contaminate 6.3 million gallons of drinking water, which is enough water to supply 42 households for a year.
- Repeatedly spilling small quantities of fuel and/or allowing fuel to continually drip on the ground will sooner or later become a costly cleanup problem for property owners.
- Gasoline stored longer than six months will begin to degrade and become a non-usable waste fuel requiring costly disposal as a hazardous waste.

Best Management Practices for Recovered Fuel

- Remove all fuel from vehicles soon after they arrive at the facility. Remove fuel from the fuel tank. Evacuate and plug fuel lines. Remove and drain excess fuel from fuel filters.
- Store all recovered fuels in closed, structurally sound, non-breakable containers.
- Remove or transfer fuel from container to container over an impervious surface only (for example, on a concrete slab) and under a roof. Make sure the impervious surface is free of cracks and holes.
- Remove fuel in a well-ventilated area, using the proper equipment. Fuel transfer devices, such as a Gas-Buggy®, are recommended.
- Use funnels and drip pans to lessen spills when you pour, siphon, or drain fuel.
- Be careful not to handle fuel around ignition sources, including stoves, welding equipment, cigarettes, electrical devices, and in areas that produce static electricity.

- Determine whether the recovered fuel is “**usable fuel**” or “**waste fuel.**” (*Waste fuel is fuel that is contaminated with other wastes, mixed with water or too old to use.*)
- Recycle **usable fuel** in company and employee vehicles.
- Dispose of recovered **waste fuel** as a hazardous waste. (*To obtain the required hazardous waste generator identification number, telephone the NHDES Hazardous Waste Reporting Section at (603) 271-2921.*)
- Label all **usable fuel** containers either: “Recovered Gasoline” or “Recovered Diesel Fuel.”
- Label all **waste fuel** containers: “Hazardous Waste - Waste Fuel.” Also, attach the required hazardous waste label. (*For additional guidance, telephone the NHDES Hazardous Waste Section at (603) 271-2942.*)
- Do not mix recovered fuel with used oil, degreasing solvents or any other waste stream.
- Store fuel containers on an impervious surface, free of holes and cracks. If stored outside, also provide secondary containment (equal to 110% of the storage volume) and put under a roof to keep the area dry.
- Store recovered fuels away from ignition sources, such as stoves and welding equipment. Prohibit smoking in or near fuel handling and storage areas.
- Store fuel containers at least 50 feet from catch basins, storm drains, and surface waters, and at least 75 feet from private wells, and outside the protective radius of public wells (typically 150 - 400 feet.)
- Inspect fuel storage containers monthly and keep a written inspection log on-site.
- Keep spill control equipment nearby. Clean up spills immediately.
- Immediately report large or uncontrolled spills. From 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Monday through Friday, call NHDES at (603) 271-3899. All other times, call the State Police at (603) 223-4381 or 1-800-525-5555.

This guide sheet provides general guidance only.

For additional information, contact:

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