



# BMPs

## Best Management Practices for Motor Vehicle Recyclers

### Floor Drains

Many of the solvents, oils, fuels, and other solutions handled by motor vehicle recyclers can cause cancer if ingested. Therefore, it is very important to prevent motor vehicle fluids and other hazardous substances from contaminating groundwater and other drinking water supplies. Floor drains are one way hazardous substances can be released to the environment and contaminate drinking water supplies. If you have floor drains at your facility, you need to know where they discharge, and you need to keep hazardous substances from entering them.

At most motor vehicle recycling yards, it is best to permanently close all floor drains by sealing them with concrete. If floor drains are left open, they must be either:

1. Connected to a municipal sanitary sewer (with permission); or
2. Connected to a registered holding tank that is regularly pumped out by an authorized waste or wastewater hauler.

Because it can cost hundreds of thousands of dollars to clean up groundwater and other contamination, “an ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure.”

Motor vehicle recyclers can reduce their risk of causing contamination and minimize their potential cleanup costs by following the best management practices listed below.

#### **REMEMBER...**

- Verify the discharge point of all floor drains.
- Floor drains cannot discharge into or onto the ground, or into surface waters.
- Eliminate the use or storage of hazardous chemicals from the area served by the floor drain.

#### **Best Management Practices for Floor Drains**

- If you have floor drains, make sure you know where they discharge.
- If you currently discharge motor vehicle fluids or any associated industrial wastewater to a septic system, dry well, surface water, ditch, swale, or other uncontained area, *stop immediately and find another way to manage the wastewater.*
- If floor drains are connected to a municipal sanitary sewer, notify NHDES (telephone (603) 271-2858) and verify that the municipal sewer authorities know about the discharge activity. The municipal sewer authority may require you to install an oil/water separator or treat the wastewater before it is discharged. Contact them for specific requirements in your town.

- If floor drains are connected to a holding tank, make sure the tank is registered with NHDES and that it meets all NHDES design requirements (telephone (603) 271-2858). Also, make sure an authorized waste hauler regularly pumps the tank out and properly disposes of the contents at an approved treatment facility.
- Stop using floor drains that are not properly connected to a registered holding tank or municipal sanitary sewer. To make the necessary arrangements for connecting the drains to a proper outlet, contact the NHDES at (603) 271-2858.
- Permanently close all floor drains that are not needed, by sealing them with concrete. Before permanently closing a floor drain, contact the NHDES at (603) 271-2858.
- Remove hazardous chemicals and work sinks from all areas served by floor drains.
- Reduce the amount of industrial wastewater generated at the facility. For example, do not hose or flush spills down the drain. Instead, use sorbents and squeegees to clean up spills, and dry sweep floors to keep them clean.
- If you must generate wastewater, consider installing a closed loop wash water system that connects floor drains to an oil/water separator and registered holding tank, and then reuse the wastewater collected in the registered holding tank by recirculating it.
- Test all soil, gravel, sludge, liquids, or other materials removed from drains and sumps to determine whether they must be managed as a hazardous waste due to heavy metal or solvent content. Alternatively, you can assume that these materials are a hazardous waste and hire a registered hazardous waste transporter to properly dispose of the materials.
- For more information about floor drains and non-domestic wastewater disposal, contact the NHDES Underground Injection Control program at (603) 271-2858.

***This guide sheet provides general guidance only.***

**For additional information, contact:**

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