



# BMPs

## Best Management Practices for Motor Vehicle Recyclers

### Storm Water Management

When it rains or snow melts at a motor vehicle recycling yard, the water that runs off can carry oils, fuels, antifreeze, metals, and other contaminants off-site onto neighboring properties. These materials can end up in ditches, wetlands, streams, rivers, lakes, and other surface waters, harming aquatic life and seriously polluting the water bodies we use to swim, fish, boat, and sometimes drink. Even stormwater that is collected in a detention pond instead of flowing off the property can cause problems because it infiltrates the ground beneath the pond, where it can contaminate groundwater.

Polluted runoff is a growing problem mostly due to increased land development. Motor vehicle recycling yard practices can contribute to this problem. Everything that runs off a motor vehicle recycling yard mixes with pollution that runs off properties located downstream, including pesticides, animal waste, and a range of other materials from business and residential property. This can add up to a big problem for the entire community.

Motor vehicle recyclers can do their part to keep stormwater clean, by changing a few work habits and acting responsibly all of the time. Follow the best management practices listed below and take pride in the work you are doing to protect the environment.

#### HELPFUL TIPS...

- Make sure the only liquid leaving your property came from the sky and isn't contaminated.
- Controlling the amount of dirt that runs off your property is important because harmful pollutants can attach themselves to dirt particles and flow off the property with storm water.
- Most motor vehicle recycling yards need an EPA Storm Water Discharge Permit. By following BMPs in this series of guide sheets, you will be well on the way toward meeting the permit requirements.

#### Best Management Practices for Storm Water Management

- When a vehicle first arrives at the facility, inspect it for leaks and unwanted materials.
- When spills and leaks happen, quickly clean up as much of the fluid as you can and scrape up any stained dirt or gravel. Dispose of the contaminated cleanup materials and dirt as required by state and federal regulation.
- Dismantle vehicles and drain fluids on an impervious surface, under a roof.
- Transfer motor vehicle fluids to or from containers over an impervious surface only, and use drip pans and funnels.

- Store engines, transmissions, and other oily, greasy parts in a way that keeps them from being exposed to rain and snow.
- Remove batteries for recycling, and place them either on an impervious surface in a covered storage area or in plastic containers with lids.
- Control the amount of soil that runs off the property, by using vegetation, stone or grass lined trenches, basins, sediment traps, buffer strips, or other measures to slow down the water and trap sediment. Remove sediment as often as necessary to keep the system working.
- Sweep and clean paved surfaces often to reduce sediment and contaminant buildup.
- Never use vehicle fluids for dust control on dirt roads, parking areas, and other ground surfaces.
- Dispose of wash water from equipment, work areas, or shop floors properly, and recycle it whenever possible. Prevent wash water from contacting storm water.
- Make sure customers who remove parts do so properly. The mess they leave is your mess.
- Never crush a vehicle without first draining all the fluids and removing gas tanks, tires, and batteries.
- Make sure facility employees understand that storm water management is important and train them to use best management practices.
- The next time it rains, make a rough sketch that shows where all the rain flows across and off your property, and look for ways to keep it from becoming polluted by controlling where it goes and what it contacts.
- Obtain a Storm Water Discharge Permit from U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) through its Region I office in Boston. For more information, telephone (617) 918-1577 and visit the [EPA website](#).

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

**For additional information, contact:**

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