



BMPs

Best Management Practices for Motor Vehicle Recyclers

Aboveground Storage Tanks

Motor vehicle recyclers collect and store significant quantities of gasoline, diesel fuel, and motor oils, sometimes in aboveground storage tanks (ASTs). Because leaks or spills of these fluids are serious threats to the environment and can easily contaminate water supplies, it is very important to keep ASTs in good condition and manage them properly. By law, you must register your ASTs if you have at least one AST exceeding 660 gallons, or two or more ASTs that have a combined capacity exceeding 1,320 gallons. By registering your ASTs and keeping them in compliance with regulatory requirements, you may be eligible for state financial assistance for expenses relating to spills and leaks. For this reason, you should

register all of your ASTs even if your storage is less than the listed minimum capacities.

Did You Know?

- Six out of every ten New Hampshire residents depend on groundwater for their drinking water supplies. The greatest threat to groundwater is contamination from mismanaged activities on the land surface.
- The state has funds that help pay to clean up accidental spills or leaks from ASTs if they are registered with NHDES and are meeting other regulatory requirements.
- Clean-up costs for spills and leaks from **unregistered** ASTs are NOT eligible for state reimbursement funds.

Best Management Practices for Aboveground Storage Tanks

- Register your ASTs with the New Hampshire Department of Environmental Services (NHDES). Registration forms are available by calling NHDES at (603) 271-6058 or from the [NHDES website](#).
- Keep ASTs 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).
- Properly label all ASTs, with information identifying the contents, safe fill volume, National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) hazard symbol, and tank identification number.
- Provide secondary containment equal to 110% of the AST's volume.
- Do not use underground storage tanks as ASTs.
- Provide a roof over ASTs and secondary containment structures to protect them from precipitation.
- Equip all ASTs with overfill protection devices (such as a gauge) and an audible high-level alarm (such as a vent whistle.) A high-level alarm may not be necessary on tanks that are hand-filled.

- Post emergency response procedures and emergency contact information on each AST.
- Transfer liquids to and from ASTs over an intact impervious, level surface only (for example, a concrete pad), covered by a roof. Use mechanical pumps rather than risking spills by hand filling.
- Develop a plan for spill prevention, control, and countermeasures (SPCC). If you have at least one AST exceeding 660 gallons, or two or more ASTs that have a combined capacity exceeding 1,320 gallons, the plan must be written and kept on-site.
- Inspect all ASTs, the impervious surface, and the secondary containment structures at least monthly to make sure everything is in good working order and there are no holes, cracks, etc. Keep a written inspection log on-site.
- Keep the secondary containment structures clean and don't leave the secondary containment valve open when not in use.
- Treat liquids removed from secondary containment structures as hazardous waste unless tested and shown to be non-hazardous. *[For additional guidance, telephone the NHDES Hazardous Waste Section at (603) 271-2942.]*
- Keep spill 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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