



BMPs

Best Management Practices for Motor Vehicle Recyclers

Spills: Prevention & Response

Spills are the most common – and most preventable – form of environmental damage that occurs at a motor vehicle recycling facility. Spilled fluids can pollute groundwater, surface waters and wetlands, as well as affect air quality and harm people. Spills also create a financial liability for your business. To protect the environment and your business, you should establish a work routine that eliminates as many opportunities as possible for accidentally spilling gasoline, oil, radiator fluid, and other motor vehicle fluids.

However, no matter how hard you try, accidental spills can still happen and you should be prepared to respond to them quickly, safely, and effectively. Make sure you have a **spill prevention plan** and a **spill response plan**, and that everyone working at your facility understands the plans.

Post a list of emergency phone numbers by your phone and post a list of things to do when a spill occurs.

REMEMBER...

- You **must** report to NHDES any petroleum spill greater than 25 gallons.
- You **must** report to NHDES any petroleum spill, large or small, that is not immediately contained and cleaned up within 24 hours.
- You **must** report to NHDES any petroleum spill, large or small, that contaminates groundwater or surface water.
- You need to **know** what to do and practice it **before** a spill happens.

Best Management Practices for Spill Prevention

- Remove fluids from vehicles, parts, and cores in one centralized location and over an impervious surface (for example, concrete). Plug all hoses after draining.
- Use drip pans, funnels, mechanical pumps and hoses when removing and transferring fluids.
- Drain parts and cores on a drain table before moving them to a storage area.
- Place fluids in leak tight, non-breakable, labeled storage containers, or tanks immediately after draining. Keep the containers and tanks tightly closed, except when adding or removing fluids.
- Store fluids on an impervious surface under cover and in a place where the containers will not be accidentally tipped over. Provide secondary containment, as required.
- Regularly inspect fluid containers and tanks for leaks, rust, dents or other deterioration.
- Keep facility equipment, such as crushers, forklifts, hydraulic lifts, company vehicles, and fluid transfer equipment in good condition and free of leaks.

- Do not crush vehicles on bare ground. Clean vehicle crushers regularly by wiping up and properly disposing of accumulated grease and oil – this will reduce the chance for contaminating storm water.
- If you have many small spills or use a large quantity of sorbents (for example, *Speedi-Dri*), review your spill prevention strategies and find ways to improve them.

Best Management Practices for Spill Response

- Clean up spills right away! **First**, eliminate the source of the spill. **Second**, take action to keep the spill from spreading. **Third**, remove and properly dispose of all spilled and contaminated material.

- Keep spill sorbents (material to soak up the spill) and a "spill kit" in each area where fluids are handled and stored.

A "spill kit" for small spills should include: gloves, safety glasses, spill sorbents (such as "Speedi-Dri" or sorbent pads), whisk broom, squeegee, dustpan, small shovel or scoop, heavy duty plastic bags, and other items to keep spills from spreading and to clean them up. Put these items in a 5-gallon covered plastic pail or something similar. Label it.

- Sorbents contaminated with oil usually can be disposed of with the regular trash. Sorbents contaminated with gasoline should be disposed of as a hazardous waste, unless testing proves otherwise. *To find out what to do, call the NHDES Hazardous Waste Section at (603) 271-2942.*

Try these sorbent-saving ideas and see if they can work for you:

- *Use a squeegee and dustpan to pick up small spills.*
- *Use reusable sorbents, such as special pads or socks that can be wrung out and reused.*
- *Use clumping granular sorbent – sift out the clumps and reuse the left over uncontaminated granular material to clean up other spills.*

Minimize the amount of contaminated sorbent you toss out.

- Do not hose contaminated granular sorbents with water. Shovel or sweep the granular absorbent from the spill area and place it in a proper disposal container.
- Report all petroleum spills involving 25 gallons or more. Also report any spill that is not cleaned up within 24 hours, and any spill that contaminates groundwater or surface water. Call NHDES at (603) 271-3899 Monday through Friday from 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. 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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