



# BMPs

## Best Management Practices for Motor Vehicle Recyclers

### Storing End-of-Life Vehicles

Abandoned, discarded, wrecked, ruined, or worn out vehicles that cannot or will not be repaired and put back into service are called "end-of-life vehicles." End-of-life vehicles have value as a source of used parts, scrap metal, and other material for recycling and repair work.

End-of-life vehicles should be stored in a way that protects their value and protects the surrounding environment. End-of-life vehicles contain hazardous fluids and other components that can pollute the soil, water, and air. For example, when leaking fluids soak into the ground they contaminate the upper soil layers and underlying groundwater. Likewise, storm water run-off from rainfall and snowmelt can be contaminated if it comes in contact with greasy, oily parts, or flows over contaminated soils or through puddles of vehicle fluids. Contaminated storm water run-off can spread pollution on your property and onto your neighbor's property. If refrigerants (such as Freon) are allowed to escape from air conditioning units in end-of-life vehicles, they can spread

to the upper atmosphere and destroy parts of the earth's protective ozone layer.

In addition to storing end-of-life vehicles in an environmentally protective manner, there are good reasons to also store these vehicles in an orderly, tidy manner.

Organizing your vehicle storage area will help you keep track of your inventory so you can get to the desired vehicle faster. It will also allow you to easily check for leaks and other potential problems, and respond to them quickly. In addition, it demonstrates business pride and improves community relations.

#### **Important Work Practices...**

- Keep a written record of the vehicles you have stored and make sure they are not leaking.
- Remove fluids and the fuel tank before storing any end-of-life vehicle.
- Establish a routine for preparing vehicles for storage and stick with it, so you know the condition of every vehicle you are storing.

#### **Best Management Practices for Storing End-of-Life Vehicles**

- Do not store end-of-life vehicles until the fuel, oil, antifreeze, and other fluids are completely drained, and the fuel tank, radiator, and other fluid containing parts have been removed. *(Be careful the fluids do not leak or drip onto the ground. Use drip pans and funnels to prevent this from happening.)*
- Do not store end-of-life vehicles until the refrigerants from the air conditioning system have been removed. A qualified person using certified equipment must do this.
- Do not store an end-of-life vehicle until the battery has been removed.

- Store end-of-life vehicles where they are not sitting in water and/or where water will not be flowing under the vehicle during rain or snow melt periods. If possible, store vehicles on an impervious surface, such as concrete.
- If engines or greasy parts are exposed, cover them with a tarpaulin or other covering to prevent rain and snow contact.
- Do not store end-of-life vehicles in the flood hazard zone or in wetlands.
- Do not store end-of-life vehicles along or over property boundaries, public rights-of-way, or easements.
- Get a junkyard license from the town, as required, to authorize the storage of junk vehicles. In your license application, show the boundaries of your vehicle storage area on a site sketch.
- Keep vandals and other unauthorized persons from entering the vehicle storage area. Erect a fence if necessary and post “No Trespassing” signs.
- Park end-of-life vehicles in rows, with enough aisle space between the rows to allow individual vehicles to be inspected and removed as needed.
- Store end-of-life vehicles in an upright position and do not stack or pile the vehicles on top of each other.
- Keep an inventory of the end-of-life vehicles stored on your lot. Record the make, model, and year of each vehicle, the date the vehicle arrived, the date it was last inspected for leaks, and other information needed to control the flow of your inventory.
- Do not accumulate end-of-life vehicles that no longer have parts value. Prepare them for crushing and send them to a scrap processor for material recovery as soon as possible.
- Inspect the storage area regularly to be certain there are no problems and keep a record of your inspections.

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

**For additional information, contact:**

New Hampshire Department of Environmental Services  
 Waste Management Division, N.H. Green Yards Program  
 29 Hazen Drive, PO Box 95, Concord, NH 03302-0095  
 (603) 271-2925 fax: (603) 271-2456  
[nhgreenyards@des.nh.gov](mailto:nhgreenyards@des.nh.gov)



Funding for this guide sheet was provided in part by a grant from the N.H. Department of Environmental Services with funds from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency under Section 319 of the Clean Water Act.