



Fact Sheet



Commonwealth of Pennsylvania • Department of Environmental Protection

MANAGEMENT OF MATERIALS AND WASTES FROM SALVAGE YARD OPERATIONS

A salvage yard may be described as a site where salvageable material is stored or accumulated including, but not limited to, scrap automobiles, reusable automobile parts, scrap ferrous (iron containing) and non-ferrous metals. Wastes most commonly generated at salvage yards include crankcase oil, hydraulic oil/fluids, brake fluid, antifreeze, windshield washer fluid, oil recovered from steam cleaning, wastewater recovered from steam cleaning, gasoline, tires, batteries, drums/containers and appliances (white goods). Wastes from salvage yards must be managed as residual or hazardous wastes under Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) and federal Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) regulations.

This fact sheet is provided to assist salvage yard owners and operators in the proper collection, reuse, recycling, and removal and disposal of materials recovered as a result of salvage yard operations. This fact sheet discusses the requirements of state and federal law dealing with environmental matters, but does not discuss other state agency or local permits that may be required. Some, but not all, examples of waste management for salvage yards are contained in this fact sheet.

Wastes generated as a result of salvage yard operations must be managed in accordance with municipal ordinances, DEP and EPA regulations. Pennsylvania statutes that most often affect salvage yard operations include the Solid Waste Management Act, Clean Streams Law, and the Air Pollution Control Act. Hazardous and residual waste management includes proper storage, collection, transportation (including written manifest records for hazardous wastes) and disposal at facilities permitted to accept such wastes.

The Solid Waste Management Act prohibits the dumping, deposition and burial of solid waste on the surface of the ground or underground or into the waters of the Commonwealth without a permit.

Local municipalities often have ordinances regulating salvage yard activities. DEP does not routinely inspect salvage yards. However, DEP does investigate complaints about pollution or violations of state regulations which may result when fuel, fluids or batteries are improperly handled.

BURNING OF WASTES

The Solid Waste Management Act and the Pennsylvania Air Pollution Control Act prohibit the open burning of waste materials unless authorized by these Acts. Some waste oil may be burned for energy recovery if it meets chemical, BTU and other regulatory requirements. Check with the regional DEP office to see if your waste oil may be burned for energy recovery.

AUTOMOTIVE FLUIDS HANDLING

The following fluids result from salvage yard operations:

- Drained crankcase oil
- Hydraulic oil/fluid
- Brake fluid
- Oil recovered from steam cleaning
- Gasoline
- Antifreeze
- Transmission fluid
- Window cleaner
- Wastewater recovered from steam cleaning

Oil, antifreeze and gasoline should be drained and collected from scrap automobiles, then be reused or recycled properly. If fluids are not drained from scrap automobiles prior to crushing, proper collection of the fluids must be incorporated in the crushing operation to prevent spilling the fluids onto the ground. If the fluids cannot be reused or recycled, they must be disposed either as residual or hazardous waste.

Anti-freeze should be recycled for reuse. Antifreeze should not be disposed into a septic system. If your salvage yard is connected to a public sewer system disposal to the system may be permitted by the wastewater treatment plant.

Gasoline should be drained from scrap automobiles and may be used as vehicle fuel by the salvage yard. If gasoline is to be stored at a salvage yard, the tank must comply with Pennsylvania Storage Tank Regulations. Improper management of gasoline may be a violation of the Clean Streams Law and the Solid Waste Management Act. If gasoline is not used by the salvage yard, it must be managed as a hazardous waste because it is ignitable.

Brake fluids, transmission fluids, hydraulic oils and similar fluids are wastes and must be managed as wastes. Normally, these materials do not contain hazardous constituents and, therefore, should be managed as residual wastes. Such management may include reuse and recycling.

Windshield wiper fluid may be collected and reused.

TIRES

Stored tires present a fire hazard and may become a breeding ground for mosquitoes. Tire management and permit requirements, available from DEP, include allowable stockpile measurements, fire lane size, storage time limitations, total waste tire site size, restrictions about location of tires and effective emergency management to avoid tire fire hazards. Tires should be sent for recycling or energy recovery as soon as possible. Markets are developing for alternative end uses for rubber. These alternatives include energy recovery at cement, paper/pulp, and utility companies and the making of asphalt rubber.

BATTERIES

Lead acid batteries should be taken to a secondary lead smelter for recycling. Disposal of lead acid batteries at landfills is prohibited. If batteries are cracked and/or leaking, they need to be placed in a sealable five gallon bucket and managed as hazardous waste. Acid from batteries that is spilled on the salvage yard soil could pose a danger of burns from contact on human skin. Any spills should be cleaned up promptly.

DRUMS/CONTAINERS

Before the owner/operator of the salvage yard accepts the drums or containers, they should be sure that containers are empty and have been completely cleaned. The salvage yard cannot accept drums containing any type of waste material.

APPLIANCES (WHITE GOODS)

Refrigerant gases from refrigerators, freezers and air conditioners must be captured and recycled or disposed and must not be vented to the air. Older appliances may contain capacitors with polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs) which must be managed in accordance with the requirements of the Toxic Substances Control Act.

WASTEWATER RUNOFF

When steam cleaning engines and parts, keep steam (water) use to a minimum and collect the wastewater. Give this wastewater time for solids to settle and oil to separate. Check with your oil handler about the possibility of proper cleaning, collection and market for oily wastewater as fuel additives.

Further Information

This fact sheet does not contain all of the regulations or examples of waste handling procedures which apply to salvage yards. Other information may be obtained from the municipality in which the salvage yard is located, from the following offices of DEP and from other telephone numbers supplied below:

Southeast Regional Office Lee Park, Suite 6010 555 North Lane Conshohocken, PA 19428 (610) 832-6000	Williamsport Regional Office 208 W. 3rd St. Williamsport, PA 17701 (570) 327-3636
Wilkes-Barre Regional Office 2 Public Square Wilkes-Barre, PA 18711 (570) 826-2511	Pittsburgh Regional Office 400 Waterfront Drive Pittsburgh, PA 15222-4745 (412) 442-4000
Harrisburg Regional Office 909 Elmerton Avenue Harrisburg, PA 17110 (717) 705-4700	Meadville Regional Office 230 Chestnut St. Meadville, PA 16335 (814) 332-6945

Other sources of information for federal EPA or state regulations, pertaining to recycling and storage tanks include:

Source of Information	Telephone Number
Storage Tanks DEP-Toll Free	1-800-42 TANKS
Used Oil Recycling DEP-Toll Free	1-800-346-4242
Antifreeze Recycling	Local Wastewater Treatment Plant
Freon Recycling DEP	
AIRHELP Hotline for PA businesses	1-800-AIRHELP
EPA Clean Air Act	1-800-296-1996
PCB/Capacitor Disposal	
EPA-TSCA	1-202-554-1404
Listing of Pennsylvania	Regional Office
Recycled Materials Markets	in your area
Directory (for batteries and some materials)	
Tire Recycling	717-787-7381

This fact sheet and related environmental information are available electronically via Internet. For more information, visit us through the Pennsylvania homepage at www.state.pa.us or visit DEP directly at www.dep.state.pa.us (choose Subject/Recycling Logo).