

## S423 BMPs for Recyclers and Scrap Yards

**Description of Pollutant Sources:** Includes businesses that reclaim various materials for resale or for scrap, such as vehicles and vehicle/equipment parts, construction materials, metals, beverage containers, and papers.

Potential sources of pollutants include paper, plastic, metal scrap debris, engines, transmissions, radiators, batteries, and other materials contaminated or that contain fluids. Other pollutant sources include leachate from metal components, contaminated soil, and the erosion of soil. Activities that can generate pollutants include the transfer, dismantling, and crushing of vehicles and scrap metal; the transfer and removal of fluids; maintenance and cleaning of vehicles, parts, and equipment; and storage of fluids, parts for resale, solid wastes, scrap parts, and materials, equipment and vehicles that contain fluids; generally, in uncovered areas.

Potential pollutants typically found at vehicle recycle and scrap yards include oil and grease, ethylene and propylene glycol, PCBs, total suspended solids, BOD, heavy metals, and acidic pH.

### Applicable BMPs:

- For facilities subject to Ecology's Industrial Stormwater General Permit refer to *Vehicle and Metal Recyclers: A Guide for Implementing the Industrial Stormwater General National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System Permit Requirements* ([Ecology, 2011](#)). Apply the BMPs in that guidance document to scrap material recycling facilities depending on the pollutant sources existing at those facilities.
- Check incoming scrap materials, vehicles, and equipment for potential fluid contents and batteries.
- Drain and transfer fluids from vehicles and other equipment only in a designated area with a waste collection system or over drip pans.
- Remove batteries and store on the ground in a leak proof container and under cover.
- Cover and raise any materials that may contaminate stormwater. A tarp and pallet are acceptable.
- Cover and contain stockpiles of any material that has the potential to contaminate stormwater runoff.
- All containers used to store fluids must comply with secondary containment requirements. Storage of flammable and combustible materials must comply with the appropriate Fire Codes.

### Required Routine Maintenance:

- Inspect storage areas regularly and promptly clean up any leaks, spills, or contamination.
- Sweep scrap storage areas as needed. Do not hose down anything to a storm drain.
- Keep spill cleanup materials in a location known to all. Ensure that employees are familiar with the site's spill control plan and/or proper spill cleanup procedures.

## Recommended BMPs:

- Install catch basin inserts to collect excess sediment and debris if necessary. Inspect and maintain catch basin inserts to ensure they are working correctly.
- Conduct automobile/vehicle metal-shredding inside enclosed buildings with HEPA air filtration systems to prevent the fugitive release of heavy metals and other potentially hazardous materials into the air.

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**Washington State Department of Ecology**

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