

AUTO SALVAGE ENVIRONMENTAL BEST PRACTICES

Remove Fluids and Hazardous Materials from Incoming Vehicles

- Drain and collect fluids and hazardous materials from incoming vehicles before dismantling parts, storing vehicles, or crushing.
- Remove and recycle mercury switches, batteries, vehicle refrigerants, lead tire weights, used airbags, and catalytic converters before crushing or storing vehicles.



Mercury switch removal

Handle and Dispose of Fluids Properly



- Keep different types of waste separate to increase recycling options and prevent mixing of incompatible fluids, such as antifreeze and petroleum fluid.
- Recycle usable fluids and determine if waste fluids are hazardous.
- Have material safety data sheets (MSDS) on-site and ensure staff understand the information.
- Assure containers are clearly marked to identify contents.

Keep Fluids and Hazardous Materials Contained

- Use self-contained impervious surfaces, such as concrete or asphalt, and covered areas when:
 - ✓ *Storing fluids and hazardous materials*
 - ✓ *Dismantling and draining vehicles*
 - ✓ *Crushing vehicles*
 - ✓ *Transferring fluids*
- Cover exposed engines or greasy parts to protect from rain and snow.
- Never drain fluids over bare ground or in the rain or snow.
- Seal open drains where fluids or solvents are stored.



Practice Good Housekeeping and Yard Maintenance

- Clear all debris, litter, and weed growth to allow easy inspection for leaks and spills.
- Store all tires properly for protection from fire and mosquito breeding.
- Clean up spills immediately.
- Regularly check all tanks, drums, pails, and other containers for wear and leaks.
- Place containers under stored vehicles to catch leaks.



Rethink How Parts Are Cleaned

- Use alternatives to solvent-based cleaners, such as hot soap washers, water-based cleaners, or steam washing.
- Clean only those parts that really need cleaning.
- Pre-clean heavily soiled parts with a wire brush or rag.

Additional Resources:

Idaho Small Business Development Center
Environmental Solutions Program
www.idabosbdc.org • (208) 426-1839

Automotive Recyclers Association
www.ecarcenter.org/ID/virtualtour.html



Idaho Department of Environmental Quality
Pollution Prevention Program
www.deq.idaho.gov • (208) 373-0146



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