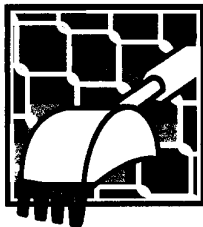


WASTE MINIMIZATION

MAINTENANCE YARDS



BACKGROUND

Maintenance yards are routinely operated by federal, provincial and local governments, and in some instances by the private sector. A typical yard consists of a large fenced area with space designated for vehicle and equipment storage and bulk material storage, as well as a storehouse and a garage. The wastes that are generally discarded from such an operation include:

- used oil and oil filters
- metal drums and plastic containers
- waste solvents and paints

- scrap metal and spent lead-acid batteries
- scrap tires
- wood and wooden pallets

This information sheet has been developed to help managers of maintenance yards reduce and better manage the waste generated. The suggestions presented here have been implemented by others and have allowed them to decrease waste volumes and reduce the costs associated with waste disposal. Implementing a waste minimization program will benefit the environment and reduce disposal costs.

WASTE MINIMIZATION OPPORTUNITIES

Waste minimization consists essentially of the hierarchy of the 3Rs: Reduce, Reuse, and Recycle. Waste reduction involves changing operation practices to reduce the amount of waste produced. Common changes include establishing “good housekeeping” practices, changing input materials and implementing new technology. Many waste materials can be reused if they are kept segregated from the rest of the waste stream. Recycling is also a method of reducing waste amounts after they have been produced and involves reprocessing of specific components from the waste stream for use elsewhere.

This section highlights various source reduction and recycling options that can be used to minimize the wastes produced in maintenance yards. As most yards include a garage for fleet maintenance, this sheet should be used in conjunction with the information sheet titled “Waste Minimization in Vehicle Maintenance and Repair Industry”.

REDUCE

- Purchase only those products and materials that are required in the minimum amounts possible. Investigate purchasing materials such as oils, solvents and paints in bulk to reduce the amount of packaging thrown away.
- Ensure that materials do not “spoil” by providing protected storage areas and implementing a “first-in, first-out” inventory system that involves regular checking of any expiration dates.
- Containers and drums should be returned to suppliers, where possible, for reuse. Whether a supplier will accept back used containers should be a factor when purchasing materials.
- Some suppliers provide pallets with their products and are willing to accept them back for reuse. Broken pallets can be segregated to prevent cross-contamination and ensure recycling.

- Use drip pans to collect leaking fluids (i.e. oil, antifreeze), and to prevent losses due to spillage or overflows.
- Rather than using paper towels, contract a linen service which will supply clean rags and collect dirty ones for washing. Some linen companies also provide this service for coveralls.

REUSE

- If, for some reason, a material cannot be used or its expiry date has been exceeded, look for alternative uses before discarding. For example, untreated scrap lumber and pallets can be used as firewood in recreational areas or they can be listed on the Alberta Waste Materials Exchange.
- Old asphalt or concrete rubble from construction and demolition projects can be ground up and used as aggregate or fill. Similarly, unmarketable coloured glass from recycling programs may be used as trench bedding and fill on municipal projects. Use of this material can be specified in contracts and specifications.
- Reuse wastepaper for telephone messages or notepads.
- Instead of discarding drums, they can be cleaned, reconditioned and reused. This service is offered by several companies in the province.
- The Architectural Clearinghouse in Edmonton recovers and offers for sale various reconditioned building materials salvaged from demolished buildings. The materials available include wood timbers, doors, windows and mechanical and electrical hardware.

RECYCLE

- Talk to your local government, recycling company or waste collection company about establishing or joining an existing commercial recycling program.
- Scrap metal should be collected as it can be sold to scrap dealers. Contact your local scrap metal dealer for more information.
- Spent lead-acid batteries can be sold for rebuilding or recycling. Contact a local scrap dealer for additional information.
- Scrap tires should be saved for retreading or recycling. They can also be cleaned and used as inexpensive playground equipment and other uses.
- Metal traffic signs can be sold for scrap value or can be recycled into new signs. This latter alternative requires that the reflective coating be removed from the sign blank, and the blank flattened and repaired. The recycled sign blank can be purchased for less than a new blank. Contact Alberta Traffic Supply Ltd. for further information on sign recycling.
- Waste paints and solvents and used oil should be segregated and saved for recycling into new products.
- Damaged plastic road markers should be saved as they can also be recycled.
- Municipalities can support recycling efforts by using lumber made from recycled plastic in park benches, fences and recycling depots.

