

automotive repair *

 **implement a recycling program for your automotive repair business**



Where do used tires go?

Tire recycling is changing. Inventors and entrepreneurs are bringing new ideas to the marketplace. Floor coverings, playground equipment and artificial reefs are just a few of the options for used tires. Provincial legislation makes it easy to ensure they end up in the right place. As a result, more tires are brought in for recycling. This constant flow of materials is helping to grow the recycling business for tires, and create some unique ideas for their use.

recycling for the automotive sector

Automotive repair shops produce many types of wastes – some hazardous, some not necessarily hazardous but still potentially damaging to the environment if not handled properly. Regardless of the nature of wastes, they all have one thing in common; they all represent loss of resources and loss of money. This tip sheet can assist you in reducing your losses while helping to improve the environment.

Take a walk through your business.

Look at all the processes that use chemicals or generate solid, liquid or air wastes. Ask yourself if there is a way you can change a process so that it does not produce a waste or if you can lower the toxicity of the products you use.

- Wastes must be compatible with the containers in which they are being stored. For example, use plastic containers for corrosive wastes.
- Label all containers clearly and properly as to their contents.
- Never place incompatible wastes that might react with each other into the same container, and keep containers closed when not actively adding or removing materials.
- Containers for recycling should be different than containers for garbage disposal.
- Place recycling containers in areas that are convenient and accessible, and where the most recyclable materials are generated.
- Keep your program as simple as possible to encourage participation from all employees.

Items that are typically recycled or reused in the automotive sector include:

Antifreeze • Automotive paint
Batteries • Car bodies

Oil • Oil filters • Grease
Window Washing Fluid

Phone & talk to a recycling advisor today at:
469-6250.

establishing good housekeeping practices

Improving a business's housekeeping practices is often the easiest and least expensive way to reduce waste. Good housekeeping includes good inventory control and efficient operating procedures. Here are some housekeeping tips:

- Keep storage and work areas clean and well organized, and keep all containers properly labeled.
- Inspect materials upon delivery, and immediately return unacceptable materials to the supplier.
- Keep accurate records of material usage so that you can measure reductions in use. Mark the purchase date on each container and adopt a "first in, first out" policy so that older materials are used up before new ones are opened. Assign someone to distribute and keep track of materials.
- Implement a preventative maintenance program. Reduction in environmental impact from spills, as well as savings from reduced downtime and avoidance of raw material losses, can be dramatic.
- Use durable, recyclable containers and keep them covered to prevent evaporation and spillage.
- Keep waste streams separate to increase their potential for reuse, recycling, or treatment. Don't allow non-hazardous materials to become contaminated with hazardous materials, as this will result in all of the waste needing to be treated as hazardous waste.
- Install flow meters, flow control devices, and shut-off nozzles to cut down on water usage.
- Use drip pans to catch lube oils for reuse. Handle oils carefully to avoid spillage.
- Increase lube oil performance by using high-grade oils and replenishing base stock with additive packages.
- Substitute detergent-based solution for caustic cleaning solution.
- Clean parts mechanically, rather than chemically, whenever possible.
- Use paints with higher solids content, or water-based paints with no solvent, whenever possible.
- Make sure all Freon is properly handled and recycled. Even small amounts of Freon pose a serious environmental threat because of their tremendous potential for destruction of stratospheric ozone.
- Use cloth towels that can be cleaned and reused.
- Collect brake fluid in a separate, marked, closed container and identify a waste hauler that will recycle it (because brake fluid is not crude-based, it should not be recycled with used oil).