

AUTO DISMANTLERS

Auto repair and recycling businesses can protect the environment by complying with the Environment Protection Act 1997 (the Act). Are your work practices impacting on the water (particularly stormwater), air and land where you work?

STORMWATER MANAGEMENT

Stormwater drains flow directly into our lakes, creeks and rivers without treatment. Make sure that grease, oil, coolant and other waste liquids from vehicles do not soak into the ground or enter the stormwater drains.

- > Deliver all vehicles and parts for dismantling to a designated vehicle exchange area that is sealed, bunded and roofed and set up for containing any wastes.
- > Drain and evacuate all oils, coolant and air conditioner gases from all vehicles and parts before any other dismantling takes place.
- > Do not wash vehicles with detergents or degreasers in open areas that drain to the stormwater system.
- > Only wash vehicles and degrease engines in a dedicated undercover wash down bay that drains to an oil separation system and then sewer (with ACTEW approval).
- > Ensure oil separation systems are regularly inspected and maintained.
- > Do all dismantling inside a shed, on a sealed work floor, to prevent leaks or spills to enter the stormwater systems or soak into the ground.
- > Do not hose the work floor unless all the water can be collected or directed through an approved trade waste system. Other cleaning options include: sweeping or vacuuming the area; using absorbent material to remove most of the grime and then using some solvent on a rag to remove the rest. Dispose of rags in the waste bin.
- > Keep a spill kit in an accessible place, clearly labelled and ready for use.

WASTE MANAGEMENT

- > Store all liquid wastes in sealed containers that are stored upright on a bunded pallet area to prevent spills from escaping. Keep them covered and out of the rain and arrange collection as soon as possible.
- > Place only dry, solid, inert wastes in industrial waste bins.



- > Do not stockpile old tyres – they are an extreme fire hazard and can cause the spread of disease by vermin. Contact a licensed tyre recycler for pick-up of commercial quantities of tyres.
- > While the use of asbestos-based products in motor vehicles has been banned since January 2003, many vehicles may contain asbestos products. In the ACT asbestos waste must be collected and disposed of by a licensed asbestos removalist.
- > Many wastes generated by your business may not be able to be treated appropriately in the ACT (e.g. liquid wastes, tyres, hazardous wastes) and may require transport interstate for treatment. It is your responsibility to determine whether this waste is classed as a controlled waste.

AIR QUALITY MANAGEMENT

Dust, fumes, gases and smoke from your activities, products and equipment can affect the air quality at your premises and neighbouring properties.

- > Installation, servicing or decommissioning of vehicle air conditioners requires a Commonwealth Refrigerant Handling Licence under the Ozone Protection and Synthetic Greenhouse Gas Management Regulation 1995 and technicians require a national Refrigerant Handling Licence. You can apply for a licence through the Australian Refrigeration Council- phone: 1300 884 483. More information on the national system is available at www.arctick.org
- > Do not clean brakes with compressed air as this creates a fine dust.



- > Prevent the escape of dust. Use a wet cloth or sponge and bucket to minimise dust. Use a wet and dry vacuum cleaner to reduce dust movement, improve cleaning efficiency and reduce water use.
- > When welding and cutting, make sure there is adequate ventilation.
- > Avoid unnecessary exposure to solvents by storing them in a covered container with a tap (to avoid the need to pour). Keep the storage area well ventilated. Ensure containers are kept closed when not in use. Use a dedicated parts cleaner with a lid. Allow parts to drip-dry before removing them. Place the parts on a rack over the tank for best drainage. Avoid spraying solvent. Use only a steady stream or brush to gently agitate the parts being cleaned.
- > It is illegal in the ACT to burn and incinerate any wastes including oily or greasy rags, oil soaked paper and sawdust.

NOISE MANAGEMENT

Legislation limits the amount of noise permitted and when it is permitted. Regulatory authorities have powers to stop you causing offensive noise.

- > Reduce machinery noise by shielding, enclosing, muffling and regularly maintaining equipment. Place machines on rubber and surround them with solid brick walls.
- > If you have to work after hours, make every effort to reduce noise. For example, keep the doors shut and keep panel beating to an absolute minimum.
- > Avoid the use of extension telephone bells and public address systems.

LAND CONTAMINATION AND REMEDIATION

The ACT EPA Contaminated Sites Environment Protection Policy, November 2009 lists engine works and scrap yards as activities associated with land contamination. Prior to being used for other purposes, the site must be assessed and remediated as necessary by a suitably qualified environmental consultant to the satisfaction of the EPA.

LEGAL REQUIREMENTS

Under the Act, it is an offence for a person to allow any substance other than rainwater to enter the stormwater system or to allow liquid wastes to contaminate soil. It is the business owner's duty to ensure all waste generated by the business is handled and disposed of correctly.

Contraventions of the Act can lead to an on-the-spot fine of up to \$200 for an individual and \$1,000 for a company or penalties of up to \$1,100 for an individual and \$5,500 for a company. More serious offences can lead to penalties of up to \$50,000, six months' jail and a criminal record. Odour, dust and fumes may also be considered an environmental nuisance for which penalties apply.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

Contact the EPA by calling 13 22 81 or email environment.protection@act.gov.au

Go to www.accesscanberra.act.gov.au for other information relating to your industry.