



Environmental MATTERS

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Batteries - Be Responsible



Australia produces approximately 3.8 million spent lead-acid batteries per year. The plastic, lead and sulphuric acid used in batteries are all recyclable, however the correct storage and disposal of batteries is important to ensure protection of both the environment and the health of the community. Incorrectly stored batteries have the potential to release sulphuric acid and lead into the surrounding environment and contaminate soil, stormwater and water ways. Lead is a highly toxic sub-

stance that doesn't biodegrade. It can accumulate in the soil and water, be transferred into the food chain and result in lead poisoning. Lead poisoning causes a range of adverse health effects such as kidney failure, brain damage and growth disorders.

Preventing the release of lead-acid substance in batteries is easy!

- ◆ Store batteries on a banded pallet to collect any contaminants that may escape.
- ◆ Provide a cover or shelter against rain to prevent battery corrosion and the release of contaminants.
- ◆ Have stored batteries regularly collected by a registered waste disposal collector.

Moving Site?

If your business is planning to or has already moved site you will need to talk to Council. If you have a current Development Approval (DA) and Registration Certificate for your Environmental Relevant Activity (ERA) and you are planning for your operations to move to another location the

DA and Registration Certificate is not able to be transferred from one site to another. In other words, both the DA and Registration Certificate are specific to the lot and plan the original application was made for. You must contact Council's Environmental Health Department to discuss what approvals/applications must be made. You may also have to talk to Council's Planning Department. Talking to Council prior to moving site can save a lot of time and effort in the long run.




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THINK BEFORE YOU ACT

Protecting the environment is everyone's responsibility - if you don't take it seriously, you could be fined. On-the-spot fines of up to \$2000 apply, however heavier penalties may be issued by a magistrate's court.

DID YOU KNOW: It is against the law to place the following items in or near a watercourse, roadside gutter or stormwater drain where they have the potential to contaminate the environment:

- Rubbish
- Building waste
- Sawdust
- Cement or concrete
- Cigarette butts
- Degreasing agent, paint, varnish or paint thinner
- Insecticide, herbicide, fungicide or other biocide

- Oil
- Scrap metal, motor vehicle parts, motor vehicle bodies or tyres
- Solid or liquid waste from an on-site domestic waste water treatment system
- Any manufactured product or any by-product or waste from a manufacturing process that has a pH < 6 or > 9
- sand, silt or mud.

The laws seek to ensure only clean, fresh water is released to stormwater drains.



Disposing of Oil Filters Correctly

Although workshops are required to appropriately dispose of all their waste oil; oil filters and the oil held inside of these is something often overlooked. Not everyone knows how to dispose of oil filters correctly. Oil filters that have not been properly drained cannot be placed in general rubbish.



Oil filters should always be drained and oil collected for proper disposal. In order for oil filters to be put into general waste and not be considered regulated waste, the filters must be punctured, hot drained for a minimum of 12 hours and then crushed. To be classified as hot drained, an oil filter needs to be punctured at the dome and upon removal from the vehicle/vessel (while hot) immediately be drained for 12 hours. The filter must be then crushed and any remaining oil collected. After this process there should be no oil dripping or oozing from the filter, at which time the filter may be placed with general waste. The best location to drain these filters is into your waste oil located inside a bunded area. This way the oil will also be correctly disposed of.

Where possible recycle all oil filters. If a recycling service is not available to you, then the hot draining method should be used prior to placing them in general waste.