

More frequently asked questions from salvage yards

How are the Salvage Yard Voluntary Compliance Project and the Kansas Environmental Audit Law related?

Directly, they are not related. The Salvage Yard Voluntary Compliance Project is a one-time effort by the Kansas Department of Health and Environment (KDHE) to assist salvage yards operating in Kansas to comply with environmental laws and regulations. As such, KDHE's assistance to salvage yard operators to achieve compliance with environmental laws and regulations will be an effort that is relatively short in duration.

The Kansas Environmental Audit Law is a mechanism that can be employed by salvage yard operators on a long-term basis to assist them in complying with state and federal environmental laws and regulations. Utilization of the Kansas Environmental Audit Law provisions represents a long-term commitment by a salvage yard operator to achieve compliance with environmental laws and regulations, and to continually monitor his or her compliance status. Additional information regarding the Kansas Environmental Audit Law can be obtained by contacting Cathy Colglazier at KDHE at 785-296-0669.

How do I go about plugging an abandoned water well on my property?

You can obtain the services of a licensed water well contractor, or you can plug the water well yourself. If

you decide to plug it yourself, you are still required to comply with state statutes and regulations regarding the plugging and associated paperwork reporting the plugging to KDHE. KDHE highly recommends that prior to initiating any plugging activities you contact them regarding the proposal. Additional information regarding water wells can be obtained by contacting Richard Harper at KDHE at 785-296-3565.

My salvage yard is located out in the country, and city utilities are not available. I have a shop area with a floor drain, which I assume drains to my septic tank or some other system. Am I subject to any specific requirements?

Since the floor drain is in the shop area where automotive fluids such as radiator coolant, power steering and power brake fluid, transmission fluid, motor oils, and gasoline could potentially spill and enter the drain or wash water from typical clean up operations, the floor drain system and septic tank and lateral field are subject to underground injection control requirements. Because this type of system is not allowed, you need to contact KDHE as soon as possible.

Additional information regarding the Underground Injection Control Program requirements can be obtained by contacting Mike Cochran at KDHE at 785-296-5560, or calling the Small Business Environmental Assistance Program (SBEAP) at 800-578-8898.



I'm located out in the country, and our wastewater is directed to a wastewater lagoon. Do I need to obtain a wastewater permit from KDHE for this lagoon?

The need for a wastewater permit from KDHE depends upon the size of the lagoon system and specifically how it is being used. Typically wastewater lagoons at salvage yards will either be permitted or authorized by the county for the handling, treatment, and disposal of domestic wastewater generated from the toilets, sinks, and showers at these facilities. Larger lagoon systems or lagoons which receive wastes other than domestic type require a permit from KDHE. Additional information regarding wastewater lagoons and permit requirements can be obtained by contacting Joe Mester at KDHE at 785-296-6804.

I've been collecting old oil from cars that have been coming to my yard. How do I get rid of it?

Used oil (motor oil, transmission fluid, and differential fluid) is not considered a hazardous waste if it is recycled or used for fuel blending, and is not mixed with hazardous wastes. So be sure to keep used oil separate from solvent wastes. Make sure used-oil container lids are secured, especially those exposed to storm water. Often you can buy stickers that say "waste oil," but used oil in storage needs to be labeled with the words "used oil." You may burn your own used oil in space heaters that meet certain requirements. You may also burn used oil from businesses if a representative sample has been tested and is determined to be "on-spec." If you would like more information on used-oil disposal, contact SBEAP at 800-578-8898.

And what am I supposed to do with my oil filters?

Most counties allow disposal of oil filters in the landfill, once they are drained. Some may require them to be crushed. You need to confirm this with your local landfill. Some waste-oil recyclers also recycle oil filters. If

recycling is not an option, hot drain the filters for 24 hours, then if possible, crush them prior to disposal.

I have several small oil and gas spills, where leaks have occurred, at my salvage yard. What do I do?

Petroleum spills should be attended to immediately. For small spills, contaminated soil may be removed and disposed of in a permitted sanitary landfill. You need to check with your local landfill to confirm it can and will accept oil-contaminated soil. The soil from larger spills may be tilled and mulched to activate natural bioremediation. Replant grass at the affected area and fertilize. To report a spill, call KDHE at 785-296-1679 during business hours and 785-296-0614 after 5:00 p.m. If you have questions regarding contaminated sites, call KDHE at 785-296-1673.

In addition to my salvage business, I've got some sand blasting and painting operations. What else do I need to be concerned about?

Spent blasting material and associated wastes may contain heavy metals and be hazardous. To know whether it is hazardous or not, send a representative sample for testing at a KDHE-certified laboratory. Then, based on your test results, the proper method of disposal can be determined. If you're in doubt about what tests to run or need a listing of certified laboratories, call SBEAP at Kansas State University at 800-578-8898.

Body shop work may have paint and thinner wastes that need to be disposed of. From material safety data sheets (MSDS) of the paints and thinners, you may be able to determine if the paint is hazardous or not (most paints and solvents will need to be disposed of as hazardous waste). If you are painting on a regular basis, you may be required to have an air operating permit. Contact SBEAP at Kansas State University at 800-578-8898, for help in determining whether you need an air permit.



The Small Business Environmental Assistance Program's (SBEAP) mission is to help Kansas small businesses comply with environmental regulations and identify pollution prevention opportunities. SBEAP is funded through a contract with the Kansas Department of Health and Environment. SBEAP services are free and confidential. For more information, call 800-578-8898, send an e-mail to SBEAP@ksu.edu, or visit our Web site at www.sbeap.org. Kansas State University is an EEO/AA provider.