

Case Study: 2	Waste Management Practices in an Automobile Industry
---------------	--

Collection, segregation and storage of wastes in an automobile manufacturing unit

I. Background Information :

There is a wide variety of value added and non-value added waste materials generated in any manufacturing process. The different types of wastes generated in any typical manufacturing industry is conventionally collected together and stored/ dumped in a dedicated waste storage area. This is a not a very scientific approach, as it leads to mixing up of the wastes, such as, metal & non-metals, solids & liquids, hazardous & non-hazardous. The mixing up and storage of different types of wastes is also not a sound environment management practice, as it can pose a safety and health hazard to the operating personnel. Also, this approach leads to substantial operating cost addition, due to the additional efforts required in segregating and disposing the wastes.

II. Best Practices :

One of the modern automobile manufacturing units in the country has by design adopted excellent waste management practices. The different value added wastes generated in the plant, include, wood scrap, metal scrap and plastics, while the non-value added wastes include cotton wastes, used gloves, mopping cloth, cleaning chemicals etc.. The segregation of wastes is depicted in the photographs shown below:



The plant has provided dedicated and colour-coded waste collection bins for collection of the different wastes generated. Extensive awareness and training is provided to all the employees of the organization to familiarize them with the use of these bins.



The wastes from these bins are collected periodically by the house-keeping staff and stored in dedicated space provided for storage of the different waste materials, before final disposal.

III. Benefits :

The following advantages can be achieved by adopting this scientific approach to segregation of wastes at collection and storage:

- ❖ Enable easier handling and processing of the different wastes
- ❖ Reduces cost of operation – segregation and handling
- ❖ Environmental benefit – improved working condition
- ❖ Reduced health hazard