



# Do you recycle or dispose of used metal cans?

## Would you like to improve this process in the following areas?

- **Meet environmental compliance regulations.** Reduce or eliminate metal cans from the solid waste stream. Media area is solid waste.
- **Improve workers' safety and health.** No change from current operations.
- **Increase productivity.** Reduce labor hours for handling, transporting and disposing of loose metal cans.
- **Save money.** Reduce transportation, storage, and disposal costs. Recycling revenues can be increased by sending bales, as opposed to loose cans, to recyclers.



Baled Metal Cans

*Crusher/baler equipment is used to compact and bind recyclable metal cans. Defense Reutilization and Marketing Offices (DRMOs) generally do not accept metal cans or pails in loose form for recycling. Also, some local recyclers accept only materials in baled form. Can crusher/balers use a hydraulic compressor to compact 500 to 1,000 pounds of material into bales. These bales reduce space required for storage and handling, and increase the ease of transportation. Baling increases the marketability, and also the market value, of the recycled commodity. Before operating this system, users should ensure that a local recycler is available to accept the bales of cans produced by the unit and to define acceptance and cleanliness requirements. Can crusher/baler equipment is being used successfully at several Navy installations. This equipment is available through the Navy Pollution Prevention Equipment Program (PPEP).*

## How can you achieve these improvements?

Use a can crusher/baler.

## How does this equipment work?

The can crusher/baler produces high compression forces necessary to crush metal cans and produce 500 to 1,000 pound bales.

## How will this equipment save you money?

Diversion of metal cans from the solid waste stream will result in landfill cost avoidance as well as revenue from the sale of recyclable and reusable material. The equipment will pay for itself in less than one year. The cost to implement varies from \$5,000 to \$40,000, depending on capacity. For a complete economic analysis for balers, refer to Joint Service P2 Opportunity Handbook Data Sheet 7-III-2.



How can this equipment eliminate or reduce pollution?

This P2 equipment can minimize or eliminate metal cans from the solid waste stream. Use will result in the following pollution reductions:

- Reduce the volume of solid waste disposed of in landfills.

Which activities can benefit most from this equipment?

A can crusher/baler can be used at all Navy sites that generate significant quantities of waste cans. Typical activities include:

- Recycling centers
- Food preparation and handling services
- Solid waste transfer stations
- Defense Reutilization and Marketing Offices

How can this equipment reduce regulatory compliance concerns?

This equipment reduces solid waste volume and increases the marketability and value of recycled material. Implementation will result in the following regulatory compliance benefits:

- May help facilities meet pertinent solid waste reduction goals including the Department of Defense Measure of Merit goal.
- Helps facilities comply with the waste reduction and recycling requirements of Executive Order 13101.



### Achieving Environmental Compliance Through Pollution Prevention

Every day the Navy faces the challenge of operating and maintaining the fleet while complying with environmental regulations. This burden can be reduced by using pollution prevention technologies and methods to reduce compliance requirements. This fact sheet is one in a series designed to encourage activities to use pollution prevention technologies and methods. The overall goal of this series is to promote sustained environmental compliance at the lowest life-cycle cost.

For additional information, contact:

Joint Service P2 Opportunity Handbook, Datasheet Number 7-III-2 for Balers ([http://p2library.nfesc.navy.mil/P2\\_Opportunity\\_Handbook/7\\_III\\_2.html](http://p2library.nfesc.navy.mil/P2_Opportunity_Handbook/7_III_2.html)) and the PPEP Equipment Book (<http://www.lakehurst.navy.mil/p2/index.html>)

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