



Scrap Acceptance Policy Overview

Schnitzer has general policies in place for suppliers of scrap metal.

Please note that each Schnitzer metals recycling facility may have different policies for metal acceptance based on local laws, facility equipment capabilities and local conditions. If you have any questions about specific metals we accept at our yards, please contact your local Schnitzer facility.

Materials We Accept*

- Appliances: ALL electrical components, compressors and refrigerant gasses must be removed.
- Automobiles: ALL fluids and refrigerants must be drained. Batteries, lead wheel weights, mercury switches, and un-deployed air bags must be removed. Some of our facilities are equipped to remove these materials on-site. Please call your local Schnitzer facility to determine if automobile preparation can be conducted.
- Air conditioning compressors: MUST be removed from item, cut in half, and drained.
- Drums, barrels and other containers: MUST be thoroughly cleaned and open for inspection.
- Gas cylinders, including air bottles, shock absorbers, and propane and other gas tanks: Must be cut in half.
- Cable and wire: MUST be cut in 3-foot lengths, or coiled and banded with 3/4-inch steel banding in at least four places.
- Metal banding: MUST be cut in 1-foot lengths.
- Chain-link fencing: MUST be cut in sections no larger than 18 feet by 4 feet.
- Aerosol cans: MUST be empty and crushed or punctured. Plastic caps must be removed.

**** Certain state and local laws require removal or preparation of other items. Please call your local Schnitzer facility for more information.***

Materials We Do Not Accept

- Refrigerants (including CFCs and HCFCs) in appliances or air conditioners. Please note that Clean Air Act regulations (§608(b)(1) and §608(c)) prohibit any release of refrigerants to the atmosphere, and require persons handling refrigerants to follow specific procedures. Our customers are REQUIRED to sign a statement certifying that all refrigerants have been properly removed (40 CFR §82).

- Asbestos or asbestos containing materials, such as pipe insulation and surfacing material commonly found on I-beams, tanks, and other structural and demolition debris (40 CFR §61.150).
- Oils, gasoline, other petroleum products and antifreeze, including hydraulic fluids, gear oils and grease.
- Hydraulic equipment must have hydraulic hoses removed and cylinders cut open and drained.
- All types of batteries or battery parts, including lead-acid automobile batteries (40 CFR §273). At some facilities lead-acid batteries may be purchased as a separate commodity through the non-ferrous department.
- Items that contain or have contained PCBs, including small capacitors, fluorescent light ballasts and electrical transformers or transformer components (TSCA and 40 CFR §258 and §261).
- Automobile airbags, which contain sodium azide (40 CFR §261).
- Paint cans or other paint containers.
- Fluorescent lights, neon, high intensity or mercury vapor lights.
- Circuit boards.
- Any material containing hazardous or toxic substances.
- Ordnance (military ammunition) scrap of any kind, unless approved in advance.
- Explosives or explosive residues.
- Radioactive materials of any kind.
- Tires, wood, dirt, yard debris, concrete, asphalt, glass, rubber, or other non-metallic materials.
- Electronic scrap including, but not limited to, microwave ovens, computers, TVs, and computer monitors (both CRT and LCD).

This list is not inclusive; other items not listed may be inappropriate for recycling as scrap metal. If you have reviewed the guidelines on this page and are still unsure what to do with an item please contact your local Schnitzer facility for additional guidance.