

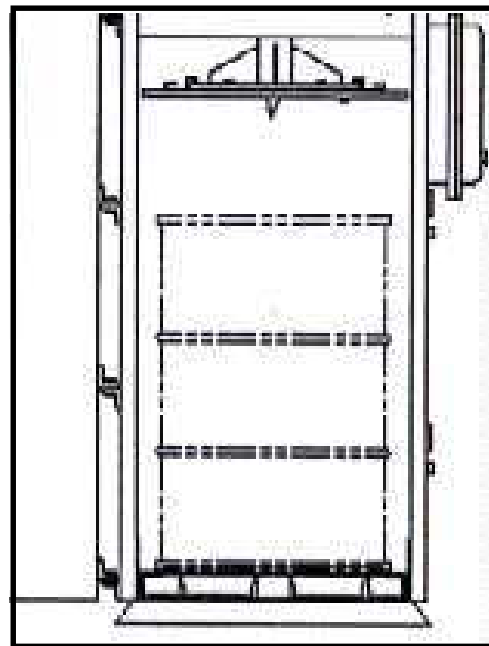
### 2.2.3 Drum Crushers

Drum crusher units that are eligible to be permitted under Subpart X, handle containers of hazardous wastes. Typically, a can or drum crusher handles one container at a time. The container's lid may be removed before it is placed in the crusher, or the lid can be left in place if an opening, such as a bung hole, is present. Some units are designed to cut off the top of the drum to allow easier access to the interior. After the container is conveyed into the unit and opened, the interior of the container may be sprayed with an appropriate solvent to mobilize hazardous waste residues.

*A Policy Memo concerning the applicability of Subpart X to Drum Crushers was issued on [May 21, 1991](#).*

Within the unit, a perforated plate is clamped on the top of the container, and then the container is flipped over and crushed with a hydraulic ram. The hydraulic ram may be electric or pneumatic powered. The rinse solvent and residues are forced out of the container and down through the perforations. The solvent and rinsate drain from the bottom of the can crusher unit into a collection tank. The crushed container, which typically is approximately one-inch thick, is then conveyed out of the unit. The hazardous waste that drains into the collection tank may be thick and difficult to mobilize. The collection tank may have ancillary equipment for such processes as agitation, grinding, or addition of fluid to enhance removal of the hazardous waste.

The drum crusher unit should be enclosed, so that a nitrogen or carbon dioxide blanket can be applied during crushing to minimize the risk of explosion. The unit also should be equipped with a flame-arrester vent that is connected to appropriate emission control equipment. Secondary containment may be necessary for the entire unit.



*Schematic of Drum Crusher.*