

Best Practices: Tips to keep track of files and organize your MOVES runs

**FHWA Resource Center
EPA Office of Transportation and Air Quality**



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Naming Strategies

- **Name all the files you use for a specific run using the same name, but with different extensions (eg. Washtenaw2008_in, Washtenaw2008.mrs, Washtenaw2008_out)**
 - Identifies each part of the run file
 - Helps organize information
- **When testing MOVES include “Test” or “Temp” in the name**
 - Mysql/data folder can get cluttered
 - Allows for easier clean-up

Other Tips

- **Save all Run Specs outside of the MOVES directory folders**
 - Folders installed in MOVES will be overwritten when new versions of MOVES are installed
 - Input files can be saved in or near the folder containing the corresponding MOVES runspec
- **Decide on the Scale before making any other selections on the panel**
 - Changing scale after making selections may reset those selections

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When using CDM, the folder where the runspec is saved is the folder that is opened, so having them close makes importing files easier

Other Tips

- **Any run used for official purposes should be archived completely**
 - Including batch files, run specs, MOVES code and configuration files, supplemental code, default database, user input databases, etc.
 - Months or years later, runs can be reproduced
- **Save output to same MySQL database**
 - Except for very large files
 - Easy to find output files

Pre-Aggregation

- MOVES calculations can take a long time.
- Aggregation of inputs is one way to reduce the number of calculations and speed up a run.
- Aggregation of inputs will affect results; while aggregation of outputs does not affect results.
- Proper aggregation is a policy issue and will be addressed in guidance.

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Pre-aggregation is one way to get results quickly, but at the expense of using less precise calculations of the results.

I favor “no aggregation” unless there is a good reason.