



Managing Waste Tires

Guidance for Minnesota businesses managing waste tires

What are waste tires?

Waste tires include all pneumatic and rubber-containing solid tires and tracks from on- and off-road motorized vehicles including:

- Automobiles
- Trucks
- Wheeled or tracked farm, construction, mining, and recreation equipment

The Minnesota Pollution Control Agency (MPCA) regulates the accumulation, transport, and disposal of waste tires in Minnesota. Tires become waste when they no longer can be used safely.

Note: Aircraft and bicycle tires, and tires used on stationary equipment such as conveyor belts or amusement rides, are not subject to these requirements. However, to prevent environmental damage, the MPCA recommends that these tires be managed the same as all other waste tires.

Environmental concerns

Improperly managed waste tires can create significant environmental concerns, including fires and breeding habitat for mosquitoes when dumped or stored in large piles, and damage to landfills when land disposed. Burning tires release toxic air pollutants and may generate toxic oils. In addition to the MPCA requirements discussed in this fact sheet, waste tire storage may be subject to state or local fire code standards and local government land-use ordinances, which may be more restrictive. Check with your local fire marshal and city or county government.

Requirements for tire retailers

If you sell tires at retail, you must accept at least the same number of waste tires from customers as you sell them. You may charge the customer a reasonable fee for tire disposal. Tire installation shops that sell and install new tires are “selling at retail.”

Requirements for businesses who remove tires

The following requirements apply to businesses such as tire retailers, auto repair shops, salvage yards, and others that remove tires from vehicles in the normal course of business.

- Accumulate no more than 500 waste tires at any time. If you exceed 500 waste tires, you must obtain a Waste Tire Facility Permit from the MPCA. A permit involves additional requirements.
- Ship your waste tires only to a permitted tire storage, recycling, or incineration facility. In Minnesota, you may not land dispose waste tires, including disposal in any type of landfill.
- You may transport any number of your own waste tires to an allowed facility. If you hire someone else to transport your waste tires to an allowed facility, either (1) Ship your waste tires only in batches of ten or less or (2) Use a tire transporter who has a waste tire transporter identification number issued by the MPCA.

- If you ship more than 100 waste tires from your site in a year, keep records of the quantity and type of tires in each shipment. Also, keep records of the identity of the transporter. If you transport the tires yourself, note the identity of the recycling or incineration facility. Keep these records for three years from the date of shipment.

Visit the MPCA at <http://www.pca.state.mn.us/publications/w-sw6-03.pdf> for a list of transporters in Solid Waste fact sheet #6.03, [Waste Tire Transporters](#).

Requirements for all other generators of waste tires

If you do not remove tires from vehicles in the normal course of your business, but you do have waste tires, you may not accumulate more than 50 waste tires at any time without obtaining a Waste Tire Facility Permit. Other than that difference, the requirements applicable to businesses who remove tires apply to you.

If you use tires on an agricultural site in an agricultural application, such as bumpers on equipment or as ballast on coverings, you need not count those tires toward accumulation limits.

Requirements for waste tire transporters

If you transport batches of more than 10 waste tires that you did not generate, you are a waste tire transporter; obtain a Waste Tire Transporter Identification Number from the MPCA. Visit the MPCA at <http://www.pca.state.mn.us/publications/w-sw3-46.pdf> to complete Solid Waste form #3.46, [Waste Tire Transporter Application](#).

Transport waste tires only to a permitted tire storage, recycling, or incineration facility. Maintain these records for three years from the date of shipment:

- Date of shipment
- Type and quantity of waste tires transported
- Identity of the generator
- Identify of the receiving facility.

At this time, the MPCA is not requiring quarterly submittal of a summary of these reports.

Requirements for waste tire facilities

If at any time, you store more than 500 waste tires at your site, or if you recycle or incinerate waste tires, you operate a waste tire facility. "Recycling" waste tires includes chipping, shredding, de-wiring, or any other processing done to prepare waste tires for reuse or burning for energy recovery.

Get a Waste Tire Facility Permit from the MPCA. Comply with all limitations and operational, recordkeeping, and reporting requirements specified in that permit. For the current waste tire facility permit application procedures and forms, contact the MPCA.

Reuse of waste tires and derived materials

Waste tires that are whole may be used without MPCA approval at agricultural sites as bumpers on agricultural equipment and as ballasts on covers and structures. Other reuse of whole waste tires requires MPCA review and approval.

The MPCA has already reviewed and approved several uses of waste tire-derived materials. You may use waste tire-derived materials in these ways without further MPCA approval:

- Crumb rubber used in asphalt paving or applications as a substitute for rubber or similar elastic material.
- Tire shreds used as lightweight fill in the construction of public roads in accordance with Minnesota Stat. § 115A.912, subd. 4.
- Tire chips used as a substitute for conventional aggregate in construction applications when the ratio of substitution is no greater than one to one by volume. This does not include use of tire chips as general construction fill or clean fill.

Other reuse of waste tire-derived materials requires MPCA review and approval. Visit the MPCA at <http://www.pca.state.mn.us/clyp864>, [Solid Waste Utilization](#), for more information on beneficial use of solid wastes.

More information

Guidance and requirements in this fact sheet were compiled from multiple Minnesota Statutes and Rules, including Minn. Stat. Chapters §115A, §169, and §325E and Minn. R. Chapters 7035 and 9220. Visit the Office of the Revisor of Statutes at <https://www.revisor.mn.gov/pubs> to review Minnesota Statutes and Rules directly.

The MPCA has staff available to answer waste management questions. For more information, contact your nearest MPCA regional staff. For information about waste reduction, contact the Minnesota Technical Assistance Program (MnTAP).

Minnesota Pollution Control Agency

Toll free (all offices)	1-800-657-3864
Brainerd	218-828-2492
Detroit Lakes	218-847-1519
Duluth	218-723-4660
Mankato	507-389-5977
Marshall	507-537-7146
Rochester	507-285-7343
St. Paul	651-296-6300
Willmar	320-214-3786
Website	http://www.pca.state.mn.us

Small Business Environmental Assistance

Toll free.....	1-800-657-3938
Metro	651-282-6143
Website ...	http://www.pca.state.mn.us/sbeap

Minnesota Technical Assistance Program

Toll free.....	1-800-247-0015
Metro	612-624-1300
Website	http://www.mntap.umn.edu