



This fact sheet discusses waste tire handling and disposal for businesses.

# Managing Waste Tires

Waste/W5-01/April 1999

## Environmental Concerns

Until 1985, most waste tires were buried in Minnesota's landfills or stockpiled at more than 230 waste tire dumps across the state — dumps which at one time contained an estimated 12 million waste tires. Tires disposed of in this way present a potential fire hazard that could threaten natural resources by polluting air, soil and water. And, because they burn very hot and are very difficult to extinguish, they may pose a safety hazard for fire personnel and others in the area. Tires also make an excellent breeding ground for disease-carrying mosquitoes, which have been known to transmit two strains of encephalitis — LaCrosse and western equine.

## Waste Reduction, Recycling, Reuse Options

When purchasing tires, consider purchasing the highest quality tire you can afford. High demand/performance tires likely incorporate more natural rubber, which has greater tensile strength, resilience and resistance to abrasions, impacts and temperature changes. Other ways to get the most out of your tires:

- Choose the best path — avoid road hazards and obstacles, or curbing and stops that could damage or puncture tire tread or sidewalls.
- Check the proper load rating and do not overstress tire capacity.

- Avoid quick acceleration or braking that could cause premature wear.
- Along with tire rotation, balance and adjust camber and toe-in to promote even wear.
- Keep tires inflated at the recommended pressure and rotate regularly to ensure maximum life.
- Return tires suitable for retreading to a company who will retread them

## Storage

If you are a retailer that collects more than 100 waste tires in a year as a part of your routine business, you are required under the state's waste tire management rules to ensure that they are handled and disposed of properly.

- Keep moving tires off site to a permitted processing or transfer site.
- Store no more than 500 waste tires on site at any time. *Storage of more than 500 waste tires requires a permit from the MPCA.* Among other things, a permit will require the business to have money set aside to pay for removing and processing the waste tires upon closure.

Check local requirements. You may need to cover waste tires in order to prevent or minimize mosquito-breeding opportunities. Avoid storing large quantities of tires close to buildings.





- Avoid storing any tires close to combustible or flammable materials. Tires stored outdoors are also regulated by the Minnesota Uniform Fire Code (1103.3.6). Tire piles (both new and scrap) may not exceed an area of 5,000 square feet, a volume of 50,000 cubic feet, or a height of 10 feet.
- The National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) Standard 231D contains specific requirements for indoor tire storage. Contact your local fire official or the state fire marshal's office for details.

- If you are unsure if a transporter is authorized, check the listing on the MPCA web site or call the MPCA for verification.

If you haul waste tires yourself:

- Make sure the load is properly secured on the vehicle.
- Make sure the site to which you are taking the waste tires is authorized by the MPCA to take them. An authorized site should be able to show you an MPCA transporter ID card or a tire facility permit.

### Proper Disposal / Recycling Options

Waste tires should be taken to a permitted transfer, storage or processing facility. A *transfer* facility can store up to 10,000 passenger car tires or the equivalent weight of other tires, then must send them to a storage or processing facility. A *storage* facility is authorized to store up to 500,000 passenger car tires until they can be sent to a processor. The *processing* facility can store up to 70,000 passenger car tires, but their primary function is shredding the waste tires to different size specifications.

The shredded tire-derived material can then be used as light-weight fill in construction projects, as a high-grade additive in the plastics industry (making products such as trash containers, landscape edging, running tracks, pool decks, truck bed liners, muffler hangers and rubber mats) or in making rubberized asphalt (used in road surfaces, bike trails, parking lots, etc.).

### Proper Shipping Procedures

Hire a transporter with an MPCA identification (ID) number to dispose of your waste tires. Or, take your waste tires to a transfer, storage or processing facility that has an MPCA permit. If you are transporting tires generated from your own business, you do not need an MPCA ID number.

Transporters who offer to take waste tires at a price that seems 'too good to be true' may not be authorized and could be dumping those tires at illegal sites. (Using an unauthorized transporter may make you partially liable for cleanup of waste tires dumped illegally by that transporter.) If you hire a waste tire transporter to dispose of your waste tires, be sure to:

- Hire an authorized transporter who has an MPCA ID number.
- Ask for their MPCA ID card or MPCA ID number.

### Required Paperwork

Keep waste tire disposal records for at least three years. Disposal records must contain:

- the date of shipment;
- the number and type of waste tires;
- if a transporter is hired, the name and MPCA ID number of the transporter; and
- if you haul the tires yourself, the name of the disposal facility.

Note: If you are sending tires for re-treading, include this in the 'disposal point' section of the *Disposal Documentation Form*.

A *Waste Tire Disposal Documentation Form* is included with this fact sheet to help you with the required paperwork. Please make photocopies of this form to use or print additional copies off our web site.

### For More Information

Your metropolitan county and the MPCA have staff available to answer your questions about managing waste tires. The MPCA also maintains a list of licensed tire transporters and processors (available on the MPCA web site at [www.pca.state.mn.us/waste/pubs/business.html](http://www.pca.state.mn.us/waste/pubs/business.html)). For more specific information, or to request a copy of the list, contact your solid waste assistance provider listed below.

|   |                |
|---|----------------|
| <b>Minnesota Pollution Control Agency</b> |                |
| Toll free                                 | (800) 657-3864 |
| Brainerd                                  | (218) 828-2492 |
| Detroit Lakes                             | (218) 847-1519 |
| Duluth                                    | (218) 723-4660 |
| Marshall                                  | (507) 537-7146 |
| Rochester                                 | (507) 285-7343 |
| St. Paul                                  | (651) 296-6300 |



**Metro County Solid Waste Offices**

|                   |                |
|-------------------|----------------|
| Anoka County      | (612) 422-7093 |
| Carver County     | (612) 361-1800 |
| Dakota County     | (612) 891-7011 |
| Hennepin County   | (612) 348-8100 |
| Ramsey County     | (651) 773-4466 |
| Scott County      | (612) 496-8177 |
| Washington County | (651) 430-6655 |

Tire processors that are currently permitted to operate in Minnesota include:

- Greenman Technologies of Minnesota, Savage  
(612) 894-5280
- Monitor Tire Disposal, St. Martins  
(320) 548-3496
- Tire Depot, Moorhead (218) 233-7417
- First State Tire Recycling, East Bethel  
(612) 434- 0578

**MPCA Web Address:** [<http://www.pca.state.mn.us>]