

Proper Care and Disposal of *Scrap Tires*

Problems with scrap tires in Massachusetts

Four million scrap tires are generated each year in the Commonwealth. Although many are disposed of properly, 15 million are currently stockpiled or illegally dumped. In addition to littering our landscapes, improper tire disposal often results in health and environmental hazards. Tires provide an ideal breeding ground for disease-bearing mosquitoes and animals. Whole tire disposal in landfills is prohibited. Illegal burning causes pollution as the oil contained in tires can contaminate the air and water.

Where do discarded scrap tires go?

Manufacturing a new tire requires 7 to 8 gallons of oil. A used tire still contains this resource and should be reused or recycled when feasible.

REUSING AND RECYCLING

Products made from recycled tire material include floor mats, belts, mud guards, carpet padding and athletic surfaces. Whole tires can be used as artificial reefs and playground equipment.



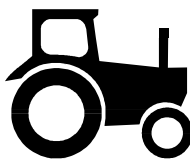
RETREADING TIRES

Retreading is the process where selected tires receive new tread. With proper maintenance and use, professionally re-treaded passenger tires provide approximately 35,000 miles of use with the same quality and safety as new tires. **Retreads cost 30 - 70% less than new tires and use up to 70% less oil** in the manufacturing process. Many major airlines, military jets, delivery services and truck fleets rely on retreads.



ENGINEERING APPLICATIONS

Scrap tire chips can be used in construction, asphalt paving and other engineering projects.



BURNING FOR ENERGY



The majority of scrap tires nationwide end up as tire-derived fuel (TDF) for facilities that burn them for energy. TDF is not a form of recycling and is a less effective use for this valuable resource.

For More Information, Contact:
Center for Ecological Technology (CET)
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TIPS TO INCREASE THE LIFE OF YOUR TIRES

Maintaining tires properly can help your tires last longer, save you money on replacement and gas, and reduce the number of tires requiring disposal.



- ◆ **Keep your tires balanced, aligned and inflated** at the recommended pressure to avoid uneven and premature tire wear.
- ◆ **Drive the speed limit.** Higher speeds increase tire temperature and cause extra wear.
- ◆ **Slow down on rough roads** and avoid potholes. Damage to your tires decreases their useful life.
- ◆ **Drive less!** Try carpooling, bike riding, walking and public transportation when possible.

What to do with scrap tires

Disposal costs \$1-\$5 per tire. The easiest time to dispose of used tires is usually when purchasing new ones. For used tires at home, call your local recycling coordinator or your town office. Each town has its own system of handling scrap tires. Many tire dealerships, as well as some garages, will accept used tires.

A fee is usually charged no matter how or where you dispose of your tire.



**If you buy new,
buy recycled!**

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