

Fact Sheet: Scrap Tire Disposal and Recycling



What is scrap tire? Scrap tire is any tire, whether on or off the rim that has been removed from a motor vehicle or

trailer. Scrap tires do not include tires from non-motorized vehicles such as bicycles or tires from small equipment such as lawnmowers.

Since 1996, **Ohio law** prohibits all landfills in Ohio from accepting scrap tires. It is also illegal to burn or dump tires anywhere in the State of Ohio. This ban is part of a regulatory program established by the Ohio Environmental Protective Agency (EPA) which tracks the movement and storage of scrap tires throughout Ohio. The purpose of the program is to reduce illegal dumping and encourage recycling and reuse of scrap tires.

How big is the problem of scrap tires? There are approximately 3 billion scrap tires in tire specific landfills, illegally dump sites, or in stockpiles across the nation. In Ohio alone, greater than 12 million scrap tires are generated annually.

Scrap tire stockpiles create many hazards to public health and the environment. Tire stockpiles can lead to dangerous fires that are difficult to extinguish and may burn at intense

heat for weeks or months. These fires release large amounts of heavy black smoke and oily residues causing serious damage to the environment through air, ground, and water pollution.

Scrap tire piles also attract a wide array of pests, such as rodents and a more severe problem, mosquitoes. Mosquitoes can breed 100 times faster than normal in the warm, stagnant water that collects inside tires. Several varieties of mosquitoes breeding in tires can carry dangerous diseases such as malaria, encephalitis, dengue, and yellow fever.

Keeping Tires Dry

There are several ways to keep scrap tires dry:

- Store indoors or in closed containers
- Cover with a tarp or heavy sheeting
- Bore, drill, cut, or punch with holes to provide drainage
- Chop/shred so tires won't hold water

A Few Ways to Solve the Problem:

The following are some tips to extend the life of tires by 10-20 percent:

- Purchase longer-tread life tires
- Rotate tires every 4,000 miles
- Check tires for recommended air pressure levels twice a month
- Balance tires when rotating them

Fact Sheet: Scrap Tire Disposal and Recycling (cont)

Where to dispose/recycle scrap tires?

The following businesses may accept scrap tires from the public in small quantities. All charge a nominal fee. Please contact them for hours of drop-off, cost, and limits on type and quantity. (For more up to date information contact Office of Recycling & Litter Prevention at 937-642-2053.)

Central Ohio Contractors, Inc. Tire Shredding Facility

3041 Jackson Pike
Grove City, OH 43123
Phone: (614) 781-8097

Delaware County Transfer Station

888 US Rte 42 N
Delaware, OH 43015
Phone: 614-363-6340

Henry County Landfill Drop-Off

L-622 Township Road 11
Malinta, OH 43535
Phone: (419) 256-7343

In addition to these locations, the North Central Ohio Solid Waste Management District in conjunction with Union County Health Department (UCHD) Office of Recycling and Litter Prevention provides an annual

Household Hazardous Waste and Tire Collection Day. A minimum number of tires are accepted free of charge to Union County residents, with additional tires being accepted for a nominal fee. This event normally takes place in early June. For more details check the UCHD website at www.uchd.net or contact the office at 937-642-2053.

Once turned in for disposal/recycling, what happens to the scrap tire?

There are a variety of practical, effective uses for discarded tires, including:

- Filler in new tires
- Molded goods and manufactured parts, as varied as doormats to jewelry
- Automotive applications
- Artificial fish habitats and erosion control in national forests
- Landfill cover, composting medium, drainage systems
- Tire Derived Fuel (TDF) which burns the shredded tires for energy. Tires are a petroleum by product, which means they have an energy value equal to oil and 25% higher than coal.
- Highway and road applications
- Playground mulch and solid rubber mats



For information on **Buy Recycled** or new market developments for tires, contact the Ohio Department of Natural Resources/Division of Recycling and Litter Prevention at 614-265-6333 or via the internet at www.dnr.state.oh.us/recycling/.

For more information contact the Union County Health Department's Office of Recycling and Litter Prevention at (937) 642-2053 or toll free 1-888-333-9461.