



# BMPs

## Best Management Practices for Motor Vehicle Recyclers

### Waste Tires

Stockpiles of waste tires can cause safety and health problems. Be aware of the hazards of collecting and storing tires, and take care to prevent the problems that can arise from this practice.

Although tires are difficult to ignite, once lit, they are almost impossible to extinguish. When tires burn, they emit toxic fumes that pollute the air and cause respiratory problems for nearby residents and firefighters. Fire also melts the rubber in tires and generates oil (called "pyrolytic oil") that can pollute the ground and surface water.

Rainwater collected inside tires is an excellent breeding ground for mosquitoes. The stagnant water provides the right environment for mosquito larvae to develop. This is a concern, since mosquitoes transmit illnesses, including West Nile Virus and encephalitis.

Waste tires can also be expensive to dispose of. It costs money to handle and transport waste tires, even if the receiver takes them for free. Some salvage yard

operators have collected large quantities of tires, believing that they will one day find a lucrative market for them.

Although recycling markets for waste tires are improving, the number of waste tires stockpiled in this country, plus the number being generated each year, far exceeds the market demand. Therefore, speculative accumulation of tires is more likely to result in costs than profits.

#### DID YOU KNOW?

- About 242 million tires are scrapped in the United States each year.
- Tires must be split, quartered, or shredded before they can be landfilled in New Hampshire. In New Hampshire, waste tires may be landfilled at authorized facilities only.
- Currently, more than 75% of the scrap tires generated in the U.S. are being put to productive use.

#### Best Management Practices for Waste Tires

- Do not accept excess tires. Take only those tires that come with the vehicle. *Note: receiving waste tires from other sources requires you to obtain a permit. For more information, contact the NHDES Solid Waste Management Bureau at (603) 271-2925.*
- Good tires may be sold or given to a tire recapping operation.
- Do not burn or bury tires, ever.
- Ship tires off-site as soon as you accumulate a full load (approximately 1000 to 1500 tires). Make sure you send them to a facility that has approval to accept them.

- Tires may be collected and stored in outdoor transfer containers or on the ground, although collecting them in a trailer keeps them dry and ready for prompt shipping without additional handling.
- If tires must be stored outside in the open, cover the pile with plastic to help minimize the collection of water.
- Store tires in a sunny location to allow evaporation of standing water and to kill heat-intolerant mosquito larvae that carry such diseases as West Nile Virus and encephalitis.
- Use citrus oil or baking soda to kill larvae in water that collects in tires.
- Check with the local fire officials and configure waste tire stockpiles according to their instructions. In no case should the stockpiles be larger than 25 feet in diameter and 15 feet in height. Provide fire lanes **at least** 25 feet wide around each stockpile. Also, construct a berm at least 12 inches high around each stockpile to contain the pyrolytic oils and other liquids resulting from fire and fire-fighting.
- Keep equipment, cover material, and other supplies, including water, nearby to help control a fire until the nearest fire company can arrive to extinguish the fire.
- If waste tires cannot be processed in a timely manner, leave them on the rims to avoid problems with mosquitoes. Remove the rims right before the tires are processed.
- If stored indoors, the storage facility must comply with the Standards for Storage of Rubber Tires, N.F.P.A. 231D, 1994 edition, as adopted by the National Fire Protection Association, and as it may be amended from time to time.
- Cover loads of tires before transporting them over highways.



Don't accumulate excess tires. Remove tires from your facility on a regular basis.

***This guide sheet provides general guidance only.***

#### **For additional information, contact:**

New Hampshire Department of Environmental Services  
Waste Management Division, N.H. Green Yards Program  
29 Hazen Drive, PO Box 95, Concord, NH 03302-0095  
(603) 271-2925 fax: (603) 271-2456  
[nhgreenyards@des.nh.gov](mailto:nhgreenyards@des.nh.gov)



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