

CITIZENS PAY FOR ILLEGAL TIRE DUMPING

Hundreds of tires are illegally dumped every year in San Mateo County. Numerous more are stockpiled at residences. Millions of dollars are spent annually to clean up tires and illegal tire dumps statewide. Your tax dollars and other recycling-based fees pay for city and county personnel to collect dumped tires and place them into the recycling stream.

Your health, safety and environment are in danger

Life-threatening disease can breed in neighborhood tire dumps: Rats and other disease carriers, including mosquitoes that may carry the West Nile virus, can breed in dumped tires.

Tire dumps attract other illegal dumping: Dumping of medical waste, hazardous waste, garbage, and other debris frequently occurs where tires are dumped.

Tire dumps pose serious fire hazards: Tire fires are almost impossible to extinguish and often must burn themselves out – spreading toxins into the air you breathe.

Give old tires new life

Old tires placed into the recycling stream may be safely ground and mixed into asphalt and a spongy material used to manufacture playground surfaces, rubber mats, landscaping bark, and many other consumer products.

PREVENTING THE SPREAD OF WEST NILE VIRUS

If you store tires on your property, you are responsible for making sure they do not produce mosquitoes.

Steps you can take:

- 1) Properly store or dispose of tires. Store tires inside a garage or under a tarp, making sure rain water does not accumulate in tires or on the tarp.
- 2) Eliminate standing water in tires if the tires cannot be disposed of immediately.
- 3) Drill holes in tires used for swings, barriers, running exercises, etc. so they won't hold water.

*An inch of water can produce thousands of mosquitoes.

*Tires are a perfect incubator for mosquitoes.

*Mosquitoes can complete their lifecycle in a week or less.

For more information about how you can reduce the number of mosquitoes in your area contact the San Mateo County Mosquito Abatement District at www.smcmad.org or (650) 344-8592.

TAKE YOUR OLD TIRES TO THE RIGHT PLACE

Places that accept old tires for recycling (Please call ahead to confirm):

Firestone Stores - \$3.00 per auto tire

1458 El Camino Real, Redwood City (650) 364-1900

1201 El Camino Real, Millbrae (650) 871-9096

190 El Camino Real, South San Francisco (650) 583-2848

705 Hickey, Pacifica (650) 355-1154

4 Serramonte, Daly City (650) 994-1500

Big O Tires - \$4.00 per auto tire

2160 El Camino Real, San Mateo (650) 212-2446

Most solid waste landfills and transfer stations will accept tires at fees ranging \$5-\$12 per auto tire without a rim. Please call your local solid waste hauler for more details.

CLOSING THE LOOP: Buy Products made from recycled tires, such as

- Auto, RV and boat bumpers
- Door and work mats
- Flooring and table bases
- Planters and rope swings
- Re-treaded tires (Note: follow safety and use recommendations)

MAINTAIN TIRES TO REDUCE TIRE WASTE

Here are a few tips:

- Check the inflation pressure every month when the tires are cool – if you have to drive to put air in the tire, check the tire pressure before you go. Driving just one mile can heat up the tire and provide an inaccurate reading. To determine the appropriate inflation pressure check the vehicle's door panel or owner's manual.
- Keep tires aligned and balanced.
- Rotate tires per manufacturer's recommendations or every 5,000-8,000 miles.
- Check each tire tread for depth by placing a penny upside down and placing the top of Lincoln's head into a tire tread groove. If you can see all of Lincoln's head, its time to replace the tires.

For further information check the Rubber Manufacturers Association website at www.rma.org.

For more information or to file a complaint about waste tires:

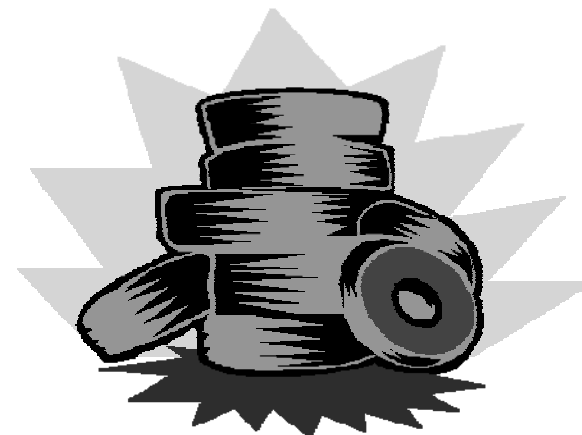
**San Mateo County
Environmental Health
Department
(650) 363-4305
www.smhealth.org/environ**

**Funded by a Grant from the
California Integrated Waste
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TIRED OF OLD TIRES?

Help Stop Illegal Tire Dumping and Do Your Part to Protect the Environment



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