

## Frequently Asked Questions on Waste Tire Disposal

Some common questions and answers concerning waste tire disposal options are listed below, along with related information and resources.

### Can waste tires be disposed of in a landfill?

Land disposal of waste tires has been prohibited since July 1, 1991, unless the tire has been processed so that no one piece of the tire is greater than 18 inches, as stated in *Iowa Code Chapter 455D.11*. A sanitary landfill shall not refuse to accept a waste tire that has been properly processed.

### Why are waste tires banned from landfills?

Waste tires have been banned from landfills for a variety of reasons:

- They do not readily decompose within a landfill
- They are not easily compacted
- During the decomposition process within a landfill, lighter-end gases are released. These gases can build up within the interior of the tire, making the tire gradually "float" to the surface. This compromises the integrity of the landfill design, and results in tires that won't stay buried.

### How can I dispose of my tires properly?

You can usually dispose of your waste tires through the tire dealer that you purchase your new tires from. These dealers commonly have a waste tire processor/recycler pick up their waste tires, so that the waste tires can be retreaded and recapped, and put on the road again, or they may be processed and recycled into other materials for beneficial uses. Often times your tire dealer includes the price for this disposal in the price of your new tires. If not, you may be charged a nominal fee for proper disposal of your old tires.

Other sites that may accept waste tires for a disposal fee include:

- Recycling centers
- Sanitary landfills
- Registered Waste Tire Haulers
- Permitted Waste Tire Processors

### Why do I have to pay a fee to dispose of my tires if they can be recycled or reused?

While the State of Iowa does not have a mandatory deposit or fee for disposal of a waste tire, most sites that accept waste tires for disposal do charge a fee. Just as you pay a fee for disposal of your household wastes, including garbage pickup, wastewater, etc., disposal of waste tires are no different. While a waste tire has the potential to be recycled and reused again in other products, the inputs required to break the tire down into these recyclable components are very costly. Often times the market price for a recycled waste tire product cannot incorporate all costs that have been associated with the production of the recycled waste tire product, and therefore it is usually necessary for the tire recycler to collect a "tipping fee" from the consumer or business that is disposing of the waste tire.