



# Recycling Tidbits

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**Stump the Grump**

True or False

America generates 300 million waste tires a year.

Answer on page 3.



## Tire Fires

In 1983, seven million waste tires caught fire in Rhinehart, Virginia and burned for nine months. Toxic smoke spread to three neighboring states. Three years later in Wisconsin, millions of waste tires went up in flames in Somerset and burned for weeks. During this time it was estimated that 15 to 20 million waste tires lay stockpiled in Wisconsin. Waste tires, as defined by the Wisconsin State Legislature, are tires that are no longer suitable for their original purpose because of wear, damage or defect. Stockpiles were formed to avoid landfill fees as many landfills stopped accepting them for disposal or property owners thought one

day the tires would have re-sale or reuse value.

Due to fires and stockpiling of waste tires the state Legislature passed a law, in May of 1988, creating a Waste Tire Removal and Recovery Program in the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources. This program provided staff and funding to address the problems associated with stockpiling and the lack of markets. A \$2 per tire fee on new vehicles was created to fund this program. It is estimated that the WDNR cleaned up 12 million tires at 162 sites and private organizations cleaned up 4 million tires at 408 sites. The tires were processed into fuel and used to generate en-



ergy. The Legislature ended this program in 1997.

Waste tires were identified as problematic in landfills and are known to breed disease carrying mosquitoes and rodents. In landfills, tires don't compress well and spring back to shape, taking up valuable air space. They also migrate or float up to the surface of closed landfills and puncture the top liner or barrier. Due to these hazards as well as to encourage recycling markets, waste tires were banned from landfills beginning on January 1, 1995.

## Watertown Tire Fire

The Watertown tire fire broke out on July 19th, 2005 at Watertown Tire Recyclers, a tire recycling facility located west of Milwaukee and about 40 miles northeast of Madison, Wisconsin. It's thought the blaze spontaneously combusted in a

large mound of shredded tires, which burn much more easily compared to whole tires. The fire erupted on a clear day with gentle westerly winds; by mid-afternoon the dark sooty smoke plume had over-passed Milwaukee and had reached central

Lake Michigan over 90 miles away.



# Recycle Tires

According to the Product Stewardship Institute, 43 percent of waste tires are reused or recycled in the United States. Ground tires are used mostly in specialty markets such as tracks, athletic fields, playgrounds, colored for mulch or shoe soles. Other uses include the creation of re-treaded tires, civil engineering applications, and reclamation projects. Have you ever seen a puff of dust when football players rough up artificial turf? This is generally a mixture of fine sand on top of ground tires. Tires have also been tested in hot mix asphalt for road ways. Currently, the Wisconsin Department of Transportation doesn't use tires, but it might make it into the mix one day like shingles have.

regulations on air emission, making it harder for incinerators to use waste tires to create energy. Therefore, research continues on turning tires into plasma and oil which unfortunately are not yet viable options.



Our recycler, Liberty Tire, makes mulch in various colors.

is charged. If taken to the Transfer Station, tires are weighed on the scale and charged \$0.10 per pound, a cheaper option when recycling multiple tires. All tractor tires must be taken to the Transfer Station for recycling. This is because, when tires are picked up by Liberty Tire, our tire recycler, they are loaded onto the truck by hand. Tractor tires are very heavy, too heavy for just one employee to handle. When picked up at the Transfer Station our staff loads them using the loader, saving time and backaches.



Your Recycling Specialist's shoe soles contain recycled rubber.

What does the future look like for recycling tires? The Environmental Protection Agency has tightened up

The most convenient tire recycling option is for residents to take advantage of services provided directly at stores where you purchase new tires. However, we understand this is not always an option therefore, residents



may bring tires to any Area Collection Station or the Transfer Station and Recycling Center. If tires are taken to a collection station, a per tire fee

- Whole Tire Civil Engineering Projects can include:*
- *Construction of retaining walls*
  - *Drainage culverts*
  - *Road-base reinforcement*
  - *Erosion protection*
  - *Fill material—whole baled tires*



# Stump the Grump

True. According to the product stewardship Institute approximately 300 million waste tires are discarded in America each year.

It's estimated that at least 111 million of them lie in stockpiles across the country. That's enough to make

wall-to-wall recycled rubber flooring for more than 1,000 Empire State Buildings, or to cover the entire state of Connecticut in recycled rubber 14 times!

# Creative Tire Reuse Projects

If you're feeling creative try one of the reuse ideas below.



Check out these beautiful tire seats from Grillo Designs.

<http://grillo-designs.com/kids-tyre-seating/>



I love this site, it has so many fun ideas for reusing tires.

<http://www.upcycleart.info/crafts/stunning-ideas-to-reuse-used-tyres/>



DIY Show off has really spruced up a used tire.

<http://diyshowoff.com/2013/07/02/diy-tire-planter-tutorial/>



Barefoot in Paradise has a great step by step guide on how to make the tire rocker shown below.

<http://barefootnparadise.blogspot.com/search/label/tires>

<http://www.icreativeideas.com/creative-ideas-diy-adorable-snowman-decor-from-old-tires/>



Rochelle from Studio 'g' has some creative ideas for the garden including a step by step guide for the recycled tire planter shown above.

<http://www.studiogblog.com/kitchen/diy-recycled-tire-garden-planters/>

