



## Waste Tire Management for Consumers

When you purchase a replacement tire for your motor vehicle, the tire you replace becomes a waste tire subject to regulation by Kentucky's waste tire program. It's your responsibility to ensure this waste tire enters a permitted management system. State law requires a new tire buyer to pay \$2 for each new tire purchased. This money will be used to oversee the management of waste tires, including cleaning up abandoned waste tire piles.

Most of the time, the tire you are replacing is either worn out or marginally fit for its originally intended purpose. The Cabinet strongly encourages you to leave your tire with the retailer. For a nominal fee, your retailer can manage your waste tire in an environmentally responsible fashion.

### **If you keep your waste tire:**

If you keep your waste tire, you assume the responsibility for ensuring it is managed and disposed/recycled properly. Proper management requires that waste tires are stored in an environmentally safe manner and should include the following:

- Waste tires are stored in a manner that allows fire fighting equipment access to the tires
- Mosquito infestations and entrapment of water in the waste tires are prevented
- Waste tires are stored on-site, in a closed container or adjacent covered area, in a building where public access is restricted
- Unless the waste tires are stored in buildings, in adjacent covered areas or closed containers, they must be stored no closer than the following:
  - 30 feet from a utility easement
  - 250 feet from a residence, or
  - 250 feet from a karst feature, surface water of the Commonwealth or unplugged water well
- Waste tires are stored on a surface with a grade of 5 percent or less that is free of vegetation and other flammable materials

You may reuse the tire for its original intended purpose or for an agricultural purpose. However, if you elect to dispose of your tire with someone other than your retailer, your legal options are as follows:

- You may take your waste tire to a permitted landfill **that will agree to accept it**. Residential pickup will not accept tires, and not all landfills will. Many landfills that accept waste tires require the tire be processed (quartered or shredded) to prevent the entrapment of water **before** it is accepted and charge a disposal fee for this service.
- You may take your waste tire to an incinerator or other facility for use as a fuel. The facility must be registered with the waste tire program and meet local and state requirements. These facilities also typically charge a disposal fee for accepting waste tires.



- You may deliver your waste tire to any transporter, processor or end-use market that is registered in accordance with the waste tire program. You can expect to pay a fee for disposal of your tire here as well.

### **Penalties**

Violations of waste tire laws are subject to a civil penalty of up to \$1,000 and an additional penalty of up to \$1,000 for each day during which the violation continues. KRS 224.99-010(8).

### **Hazards**

Unmanaged waste tires represent an environmental and health risk to the commonwealth through fire hazard and as a breeding ground for disease-carrying mosquitoes. It has been demonstrated that mosquitoes breed 5,000 times faster in the water that collects in tires than in water accumulations that occur naturally in forests. This is of increasing concern because the Asian tiger mosquito (*Aedes albopictus*), which carries Dengue fever and La Crosse encephalitis, has been identified in all Kentucky counties.

Please be responsible in the management of your waste tires.

If you have comments, suggestions or questions about waste tires, please contact us.

**DEP Division of Waste Management**  
**Recycling and Local Assistance Branch | 300 Sower Blvd., 2nd Floor, Frankfort, KY 40601**  
**502-564-6716 (Telephone) | 502-564-4245 (Fax) | [Darin.Steen@ky.gov](mailto:Darin.Steen@ky.gov)**

The Division of Waste Management does not discriminate on the basis of race, age, religion, sexual orientation or gender identity, ancestry, age, disability, or veteran status. The division provides, on request, reasonable accommodations necessary to afford an individual with a disability an equal opportunity to participate in all services, programs and activities. To request materials in an alternate format, contact the division.

