

Managing Waste Tires in Indiana

When tires are improperly stockpiled or illegally dumped, they trap rainwater and become breeding grounds for disease-carrying mosquitoes and rodents. Another problem with tire storage piles is that they can be a major fire hazard and are extremely difficult to extinguish. When tires burn, they release toxic gases into the air and leave behind a hazardous oily residue that pollutes the streams and ground water. The accumulation of waste tires is restricted to less than 1000 outside or 2000 within a completely enclosed structure. Indiana Fire Codes will also apply.



Regulatory Overview

On November 9, 2000, waste tire management regulations were revised under 329 IAC 15 through the IDEM Office of Land Quality. In July of 2012, Indiana code (13-20-14-5.3) was changed to read, sources that generate more than twelve (12) tires per year, or the equivalent in passenger tire equivalents, including tire retailers, auto salvagers, and sellers of used tires must retain copies of the waste tire manifests received from your tire transporter. You need to maintain these records for one (1) year.

Remember that, as you accept waste tires from customers you become the generator and accept responsibility for proper management of this waste along with ultimate liability if an unauthorized transporter disposes of the tires illegally. Also be aware that large accumulations of waste tires, without being a registered waste tire storage site, are prohibited and most customers know that.

Definitions of key terms:

Retailer: Sec.194.(a) “Retailer”, for purposes of IC 13-20-14, means a person engaged in the business of selling new tires at retail in Indiana.

Used tire : 329 IAC 15-2-13, means, a tire that (1) is suitable for use on a motor vehicle as (a) the tire has two thirty-seconds (2/32) inch of remaining tread or the tire wear bars are not exposed and (b) the tire has no cuts, slashes, or exposed cord. (2) The tire is stored in a rack, stack, or row. (3) The tire is stored out of the weather to prevent accumulation of water in the tires. Used tires stored outside can be regulated as “waste tires.”

Waste tire: IC 13-11-2-250, for purposes of IC 13-20-13 and IC 13-20-14, means a tire not suitable for the tire’s original purpose.

According to IC 13-20-14-4 (effective July of 2012), a source of waste tires shall dispose of waste tires in the source's possession by one or more of the following means:

- Delivery to a wholesaler or to an agent of a wholesaler.
- Delivery to a manufacturer of tires.
- Delivery to a facility that retreads tires.
- Delivery to a permitted final disposal facility regulated under environmental management laws.
- Delivery to a registered waste tire storage site.
- Delivery to a registered waste tire processing operation.
- Collection by a registered waste tire transporter.

A person referred to above is not required to accept waste tires from a source of waste tires.

Management responsibilities: Listed below are the requirements pertaining to the sale and disposal of tires, including the two used tire management options previously mentioned. Also listed are suggested practices that you should follow in order to ease your regulatory requirements and improve the environmental health of your shop.

You must (for those that sell new tires):

- Post a sign in a location that is conspicuous to your customers. The sign must be at least 8.5" wide by 11" high and the lettering must be at least 18-point type. The written notice must indicate the following language:

“Do not put waste tires in the trash. Recycle your waste tires. State law requires us to accept your waste tires for recycling or proper disposal if you purchase new tires from us.”

- Accept from the customer at least one used tire for each new tire sold.
- Collect a twenty-five-cent (0.25) fee for each new tire that is sold, and pay all but one percent (1%) of the collected fees to the State Department of revenue when the State gross retail tax is due.

You must (for those that store used tires in a storage area that is no larger than 500 square feet):

- Stack tires in an orderly manner in an approved location so as not to create a fire hazard.
- Stack tires no higher than two feet from the ceiling and do not block any exit from the building.
- Not stack tires higher than 20 feet if stored outside. The location of the tire pile must not constitute a hazard to adjacent buildings or property.
- Contact the Plan Review Division for regulatory information that may be specific to your shop.
- For storage areas greater than 500 square feet, contact the Plan Review Division for assistance.

You must (if you dispose of your used tires as a solid waste):

- Alter the used tire by cutting it into 4 relatively equal pieces or by removing both of the sidewalls from the tread, resulting in 3 pieces. (Note that this is an IDEM Office of Land Quality requirement to satisfy the ban on landfill disposal of whole tires.) A landfill facility may require additional processing or may refuse to accept any tire material.
- Use an IDEM registered waste tire transporter who is required to provide the generator with a waste tire manifest showing number of tires handled and the final destination. Lists of IDEM registered waste tire transporters, processing facilities and storage sites along with the Waste Tire Manifest form are available at www.in.gov/idem/ctap/2353.htm
- Follow [IOSHA](#) regulations if you service multi-piece or single piece rim wheels used on large vehicles. Contact [INSafe](#) or [CTAP](#) for more information.

You should:

- Educate your customers about tire manufacturers recommended guidelines such as regularly checking tire pressure and rotating tires to extend the life of their tires.
- Send your waste tires to registered waste tire processing companies that produce beneficial tire derived materials.