

End of the Scrap Tire Roundup Program

On Nov. 1, 2006, the Missouri Department of Natural Resources' Solid Waste Management Program (SWMP) announced a new scrap tire cleanup program called the Scrap Tire Roundup. The program did not seek reimbursement for cleanup costs or implement penalties for eligible sites. It partnered with the Missouri Department of Corrections to clean up sites containing between 500 to 10,000 tires. For sites containing less than 500 tires, the department worked with the Solid Waste Management Districts and non-profit groups to provide cleanups.

How was the program funded? The Tire Dump Roundup was funded from the state's 50-cent-per-tire scrap tire fee collected by retailers when a new tire is purchased in Missouri. The focus of the department will change from scrap tire dump cleanups to increasing its emphasis on the development of end uses for scrap tire derived materials. As part of this focus, it will continue working with the Scrap Tire Advisory Group to issue grants for playground surfacing materials, non-playground materials and other scrap tire end use projects to help promote the use of Missouri generated scrap tires. Some past special projects of interest have been creating State Fair stall mats and Missouri Department of Transportation rest area benches.

What has the Scrap Tire Roundup accomplished? To date, more than 17 million tires across Missouri have been cleaned up with the funds from the scrap tire fee. Nearly 2.5 million of these tires were a direct result of the Scrap Tire Roundup program. The majority of these cleanups were conducted at relatively small sites in some of the most difficult terrain Missouri has to offer, including deep ravines, ponds, marshes and woods.

Why is the program ending? The department's Scrap Tire Roundup program will come to an end due to the economic feasibility of conducting these cleanups and the loss of contractors willing to conduct these cleanups.

What happens now? Effective April 1, 2016, the Scrap Tire Roundup program ceased accepting applications for these cleanups. SWMP and its contractor will continue to conduct the cleanups currently in the agreement process. Once these sites have been cleaned up, the Scrap Tire Roundup program will end. The department will continue to work with Solid Waste Management Districts and nonprofit citizens groups in cleaning up scrap tire dumps. The nonprofit group cleanup application and forms can be found at: <http://dnr.mo.gov/env/swmp/tires/tirecost.htm>.

How consumers can properly dispose of scrap tires:

- Leave used tires removed from your vehicle(s) with the tire dealer/retailer for proper disposal
- Take scrap tires to a tire dealer who may charge for proper disposal
- Cut the sidewalls out of each tire (leaving two sidewalls and tread ring) and dispose of the three pieces with your normal trash
- Cut the tires circumferentially through the center of the tread (like a bagel) and dispose of the two pieces with your normal trash
- Contact a permitted scrap tire hauler for the removal and proper disposal of the tires -- a list of permitted scrap tire haulers can be found at: <http://dnr.mo.gov/env/swmp/wthaulerlist.pdf>

What are the risks of not properly disposing or recycling tires?

When scrap tires are not disposed of or recycled properly they pose serious threats to human health and the environment. Insects and rodents grow and breed in these dumps and can transmit diseases, such as the West Nile Virus. Fires at tire dumps can release hazardous substances into the air, land and water, and can burn for months or even years.

What are the benefits of properly disposing or recycling tires?

When Missourians properly dispose of or recycle scrap tires they help support Missouri's scrap tire processors whose products include materials providing several beneficial uses, including rubberized asphalt, playground surfacing materials, running tracks, walking trails, an alternative source of fuel for power plants and cement kilns, a lightweight construction material, and other recycled rubber products.



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NOTE: Scrap tires may not be burned or buried. Burning or burying scrap tires is a violation of the Missouri Solid Waste Management Law.