



Used Tyres

The burning and dumping of waste tyres is an offense under the *Environment Protection Act 1970* and Council local laws. This is also illegal according to the EPA *Industrial Waste Resource Guidelines*.

Tyres are illegal to dispose of to landfill as they can cause significant fire hazards, breeding sites for vermin and assist in the spread of disease. Tyres also break down and leachate from them ends up in the soil and groundwater, causing contamination. As a result, waste tyres must either be reused, or if no longer suitable for reuse, shredded by specialist contractors for appropriate recycling or disposal. Licensed landfills can however accept tyres if shredded into pieces no greater than 250mm.

Pollution abatement notices can be issued requiring the removal and appropriate disposal of tyres. Legal action can also be taken against your business if you dump or dispose of waste tyres incorrectly. Your business may even face significant fines.

Therefore, it is important to note that tyre dealers have the responsibility of exercising due diligence and ensuring that used tyres are disposed of appropriately. If you do use a tyre collection service, you must ensure that the service is managing waste tyres appropriately. This can be done by asking questions such as where they take the tyres and what is done with them. If you do not ask this and your tyres are managed inappropriately, you may be responsible for paying some or all of the costs associated with the cleanup.

Storage of Tyres

The storage of tyres within your business should also be management properly. This is to minimise the risk of fire within your business. A management plan for the reuse or disposal of your businesses tyres should be developed and implemented so that tyres do not accumulate and cause safety and environmental hazards. The advice of the Country Fire Authority (CFA) or Melbourne Fire Brigade (MFB) should be sought in this regard.

Generally the following minimum standards apply to tyre storage:

- Stockpiles must be segregated to a maximum area of 10x10 metres, with a minimum separation distance of 5 metres.
- The premises fire service to comply with Australian Standard (AS 2419.1) or be in accordance with the requirements of the CFA or MFB.

Environmental Guidelines



- The tyre storage area must be adequately bunded or contained so that, in the event of a fire, no contaminated water is allowed to escape beyond the property boundaries.

Important Links

EPA Industrial Waste Resource Guidelines *Used Tyres* found at <http://www.epa.vic.gov.au/waste/industrial-waste-guidelines.asp> under *6.4 Additional Guidance*.

EPA Industrial Waste Resource Guidelines *Motor Vehicle Repair & Service Premises* found at <http://www.epa.vic.gov.au/waste/industrial-waste-guidelines.asp> under *6.4 Additional Guidance*, gives further information on storage of tyres.

Further Information



Environment Protection Authority Victoria
Phone: (03) 9695 2722
www.epa.vic.gov.au

Country Fire Authority
<http://www.cfa.vic.gov.au/>

Melbourne Fire Brigade
<http://www.mfb.vic.gov.au/>

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Note: This Good Practice Guideline is not a complete statement of law relevant to this topic. Further legal advice must be sought if complete information is required.