

Waste Tire Program Auto Wreckers

The waste tire regulations (OAR 340 Division 64) require that any site storing more than 100 waste tires must have a "WASTE TIRE STORAGE PERMIT" from the Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ). Retreaders may store up to 3,000 tires before they must get a permit. Tire retailers and auto wreckers may store up to 1,500 waste tires without a permit. Waste Tire Site Permit requirements can be found in OAR 340-64-015 - 050.

How do auto wreckers fit into this program?

An auto wrecker storing more than 1,500 waste tires must have a DEQ waste tire storage site permit.

Wrecking yards already operate under permits from the State. Shouldn't that allow them to store tires when it is a part of their business?

The permit from the Department of Motor Vehicles (DMV) allows someone to operate as a wrecking yard. The DMV does not in general regulate how materials are stored or disposed of. The separate permit required for storing waste tires will regulate how tires are stored. The 1987 Legislature felt that waste tire storage was a problem requiring separate regulation through the DEQ.

What is a "waste tire"?

A waste tire, by law, is a tire "that is no longer suitable for its original intended purpose because of wear, damage or defect." DEQ's administrative rules clarify this definition to include "recappable casings." Tires both on and off rims can be considered waste tires. (See next section.) However, a used tire, which can be resold for use as a tire on a vehicle, is NOT a waste tire. It does not fit the legal definition of "waste tire" if a tire is still on a vehicle. DEQ will assume that it is still being used for its original intended purpose, and thus is not a "waste tire."

How about tires that are being used for some purpose? (For example, tires on rims that are used to tow abandoned vehicles into the shop; tires used as stands to hold up wrecked vehicles; tires used for fences.)

If a tire can be used for its original intended purpose (even if it is used just while towing a vehicle into the shop) such a tire is not a "waste tire." These are not regulated. However, a DEQ beneficial use permit is required for a tire fence of more than 100 tires.

How can I get rid of my waste tires?

Solid waste disposal sites can no longer accept whole waste tires for disposal. Tires that have been chipped or shredded to DEQ's specifications can be landfilled. OAR 340-64-052 describes chipping standards for disposal of tires in Oregon solid waste disposal sites. Many tire businesses and solid waste disposal sites will accept waste tires (for a fee). Manufacturing firms may accept waste tires at no charge if you have the kind of tires they use. (Examples: earthmovers without steel belts, certain types of truck tires.) Contact your local DEQ office for tire disposal options. The Department can provide you with a list of permitted waste tire carriers. You can contact one of them to have your waste tires hauled away for recycling. You need to keep a record of the hauler you are using and how many waste tires he or she hauls for you.

Can I haul the tires myself?

You can haul the tires that accumulate at your wrecking yard as a result of the auto wrecking business. You must take them to a facility that is authorized by DEQ or, if out of state, by that state or local government. You must keep tire disposal receipts for at least 2 years. If you have additional questions, please contact your local DEQ office or call toll free at 1-800-452-4011.

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