

Bike tire and tube recycling – Frequently Asked Questions

- Q. Is this a new program?
- A. *Yes. This program is effective June 1 2011 and is a voluntary program that was initiated by the local biking community and has resulted in a partnership between Tire Stewardship BC (TSBC), the recycling industry, the Bicycle Trade Association of Canada (BTAC) and local cycling coalitions.*
- Q. Where can I get more information about this program?
- A. *The primary source of information will be on the Tire Stewardship BC web site at <http://www.tirestewardshipbc.ca/bike.php>*
- Q. Prior to this program, what happened to used bike tires and tubes?
- A. *Most tires and tubes went directly to the landfill; some were re-purposed into small textile and miscellaneous applications.*
- Q. Are the bike tires and tubes part of the Tire Stewardship BC Scrap Tire Program?
- A. *No. This is 100% voluntary program which has come about due to demand from the cycling community, the emergence of new recycling options for bike tires and tubes and the ability to piggy back on the current TSBC scrap tire collection infrastructure.*
- Q. Who is Tire Stewardship BC and what is their role in this program? Who else is involved?
- A. *Tire Stewardship BC is the not for profit society responsible for ensuring all of BC's regulated scrap tires are collected and recycled. Tire Stewardship BC is offering its current scrap tire collection infrastructure and paying all the costs associated with the transportation and recycling of the tires and tubes; BTAC is the primary point of contact for bike retailers; and the local cycling coalitions provide any support necessary such as getting the word out.*
- Q. Can any type of bike tire and tube be recycled?
- A. *The only exception is tubular tires. Tubulars are used on special rims and are held on to the rims by glue. Tubulars used to be fairly common on high-performance bicycles, but these days they are an endangered species*
- Q. Where will the actual recycling take place?
- A. *The recycling of the tires takes place in Delta BC at Western Rubber Products, where the majority of the other tires in the province are recycled. While the tubes and stems are currently being exported for recycling off shore, finding local markets is preferred.*

Q. What are bike tires and tubes recycled into?

A. *Bike tires are recycled into mulch used in landscaping applications or as ground cover for playgrounds. The tubes are manufactured into products such as bottle stoppers.*

Q. What happens to the valve stems?

A. *The stems are sold as brass scrap.*

For the consumer....

Q. Where can I recycle my used bike tires and tubes?

A. *Certain bike retailers in the province will accept your tires and tubes for recycling. A list is available on the TSBC web site but we recommend you call your local bike retailer first.*

Q. Can I take my used bike tires and tubes directly to a tire retailer?

A. *No. The tires and tubes must be returned to a bike retailer.*

Q. Do I have to pay when I buy or drop off my bike tires / tubes at a participating bike retailer location?

A. *No, there is no cost to the consumer. The bike retailer is doing their part to accept your bike tires and tubes for free, Western Rubber Products in Delta handles the collection and recycling and Tire Stewardship BC pays the associated costs.*

Q. Will my local landfill still accept used bike tires and tubes?

A. *Yes. However, we recommend you use the free disposal option by taking them to a participating bike retailer.*

For the bike retailer.....

Q. My bike shop wants to participate in the new bike tire and tube recycling program. What do I need to do?

A. *Please refer to the TSBC website for instructions to bike stores. While you are not required to do so, we recommend you register your name as a bike shop that offers bike tire and tube recycling so that the general public is aware of your participation in the program.*

Q. Once our bike store has collected the required number of used tires and/or tubes, what is the next step?

A. *Contact your local tire retailer, already registered with TSBC, and ask if they would be willing to accept your tires and tubes for disposal with their regular scrap tires. Information on how to properly bundle your tires and tubes is posted on the TSBC web site at <http://www.tirestewardshipbc.ca/bike.php>. It is your responsibility to deliver correctly bundled stacks of tires and tubes to your local tire retailer*

- Q. Do I collect an eco fee from the consumer?
- A. *No. This is a voluntary program with all costs associated with collecting, transporting and recycling the tires and tubes being paid for by TSBC.*
- Q. Do I pay to dispose of the tires and tubes?
- A. *There is no cost to you if you partner with a tire retailer AND you properly bundle the tires and tubes as required. Information on how to properly bundle your tires and tubes is posted on the TSBC web site <http://www.tirestewardshipbc.ca/bike.php>*
- Q. What other recycling programs are available to bike shops?
- A. *The focus of this initiative is strictly rubber recycling as it is related to scrap bike tires and tubes. It also depends on the services provided by each municipality. Check with you local government for other product recycling options and programs.*
- Q. If our bike shop has additional questions, or would like to provide feedback, who do we contact?
- A. *As a partner in this initiative, BTAC is representing members of the independent bike dealer network and should be able to assist you. They can be reached at info@btac.org*