

Bicycle tire and tube recycling

Q. When did this program start?

A. *This program became 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 Canadian Independent Bicycle Retailers (CIBR) and local cycling coalitions.*

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 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; CIBR 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 www.tsbc.ca under Recycle Your Tires section, 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 covers 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.*