

# Map Search



## KANSAS TOWNS THAT HAVE TIRE DISPOSAL CENTERS:

Find out where you can dispose of tires. Draw a circle around the towns on the map that dispose of tires. Which one is closest to you?

Anthony  
Chapman  
Cimarron  
Coldwater  
Columbus  
Council Grove  
Derby  
Emporia  
Goodland

Great Bend  
Greensburg  
Harper  
Hays  
Hugoton  
Humboldt  
Kansas City (including:  
Lenexa, Overland Park,  
Shawnee)

Kingman  
Kiowa  
Larned  
Lawrence  
Leavenworth  
Liberal  
Lyons  
Manhattan  
Marion

Newton  
Pratt  
Rossville  
Salina  
Sawyer  
Topeka  
Washington  
Wellington  
Wichita

What happens to those tires when you are done with them?



## Fun Fact

Old tires can be used for holding plants of all kinds, they retain moisture and the sun's heat.



Kansas Kids Can is published 4 times a year for 4th grade students throughout the state of Kansas.

Kansas Kids Can is the creation of the *Kansas Don't Spoil It!* Program, a program of the Kansas Department of Health and Environment. *Kansas Don't Spoil It!* is an awareness and education program created to encourage Kansans to reduce, reuse and recycle waste and keep our state in a beautiful condition. Material in this newsletter is also available on the web at [www.kansasdontspoilit.com](http://www.kansasdontspoilit.com). To order the Kansas Kids Can Newsletter, submit writings or request additional information, write to:

# KANSAS DON'T SPOIL IT!

KDHE  
Bureau of Waste Management  
Attn: Kansas Kids Can  
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Topeka, KS 66612  
[kkc@kdhe.state.ks.us](mailto:kkc@kdhe.state.ks.us)

Answers to Old Tires Quiz:

Energy, used tires, playground mats, planters, tire swings, bumpers, sandboxes, carpet padding, guard rails, floor mats and tiles.

# KANSAS KIDS CAN!

REDUCE · REUSE · RECYCLE  
Fall 2004, 5th Edition [www.kansasdontspoilit.com](http://www.kansasdontspoilit.com)

## MAKIN' TRACKS Tire Recycling at Work!

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- Have you ever wondered what happens to all of those tires on cars, bicycles, motorcycles, go-carts (and anything else that has wheels) when they eventually wear out?
- You may have used a backyard tire swing or driven on a tire-lined go-cart track. Maybe you have seen them in huge trash piles waiting to be hauled away. What an UGLY sight.



Recycled rubber tiles add cushiony protection

The people of Kansas have come up with some VERY creative and unbelievable uses for old tires!

Have you ever been to a playground that had a rubbery surface covering the ground instead of sand, gravel or mulch? That surface is made from recycled rubber from tires! Each square "tile" is typically 2 feet by 2 feet and uses almost four scrap passenger tires per tile. Each tile also gives the playground some cushiony protection in case someone falls or jumps off of the equipment.

This recycled tire surface also allows children with limited physical abilities to safely enjoy the playground. It is almost impossible to get a wheelchair through sand or gravel without getting stuck! The recycled tire surface is also BUG free – wood mulch surfaces attract termites, crickets, spiders, and roaches and often have to be sprayed with insecticides to keep those bugs away. Not all playgrounds are made of tiles. Some are made of crumb rubber that is poured into place and forms the surface of the playground.

You may have walked on some of these

recycled rubber surfaces right here in Kansas! Have you been to Gage Park in Topeka? Or the running track at the High School in the Seaman School District near Topeka? Maybe you've been to Seneca Park in Wichita? Have you seen the Earth Ship that the Prairie Band Potawatamie Nation is building out of old tires near Mayetta?

If you know of a place that uses recycled tires as a surface in your community, let us know! Send us your picture along with the location of the recycled tire surface, and we'll try to feature it in our next issue of Kansas Kids Can! ■



Many playground surfaces are made out of recycled shredded tires.

## Fun Fact

Large tires from a truck or tractor can be cleaned up and put down on the ground and filled with sand for a great sandbox!

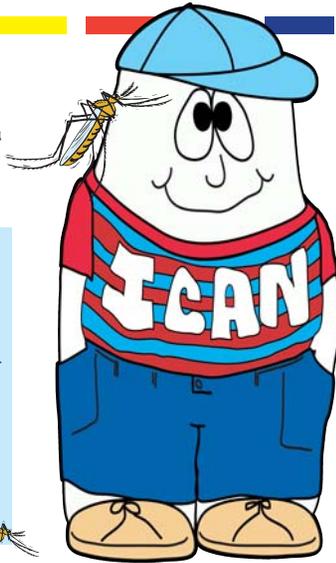
# Tire Piles are BUZZING!

Did you know that old tires left sitting around your home collect water when it rains or when the sprinkler is on? AND, did you know that mosquitoes lay their eggs in standing water around your home? (Like in the water that is standing in those old used up tires!) AND, did you know that those eggs hatch and produce mosquitoes? It makes me itch just thinking about it! But even worse, it could make you sick! West Nile Virus is in Kansas, and is spread to us when a mosquito that carries the virus bites us. (They actually get it from birds that have West Nile Virus - they bite the bird, and get the virus. I always wondered if the birds itch when they get mosquito bites... ) Not all mosquitoes carry West Nile Virus,

## Here's what YOU can do:

- Try not to be outdoors at dawn or dusk when mosquitoes are most active.
- Wear mosquito repellent with DEET (I know, it is smelly - but it works!).
- Remove standing water around your home. (Take those used up piles of tires to a tire disposal center!)
- Swat those skeeters!

but since we can't tell which ones actually have it, we have to be extra careful during mosquito season to protect ourselves from being bitten by those pesky buzzers.



# Doin' time in the Tire Landfill!

The most important thing to remember about those old, used tires is:

## Please dispose of them properly!

When your mom or dad get new tires for your family car, motorcycle, boat trailer or farm tractor, make sure that the old tires stay at the store where they purchase the new tires. The salesperson at the store will make sure that the old tires go to the proper place, the 'tire monofill.' It's like a landfill but only for old worn-out tires. The people who work at the tire monofill can do lots of things with those tires. Some tires are

sold again as used tires. Others can be ground up and used as fuel at power stations that generate electricity. Still others can be made into other things like playground mats (see Makin' Tracks).

It's important for our environment to recycle as many tires as possible because the rubber in tires doesn't ever break down. Imagine 100 years from now finding an old tire, and it will look exactly the same! In 2003, almost 300 million old tires were thrown away in the United States. Now that's a lot of rubber that could be turned into many other useful things!

What creative things can YOU think of to do with old tires? Send us your thoughts and a picture of yourself and we will try to use it in upcoming issues of Kansas Kids Can!

Do you know where your tires have been? See if you can unscramble all of these critters.



## ROADKILL Word Scramble

1. kksnu \_\_\_\_\_
2. illomadarr \_\_\_\_\_
3. sumopos \_\_\_\_\_
4. quirsrel \_\_\_\_\_
5. rede \_\_\_\_\_
6. asken \_\_\_\_\_
7. letrut \_\_\_\_\_

Did you know that tires can be shredded and used as padding underneath the carpet to provide cushioning for our feet?

## FUN FACT



## SUMMER VACATIONS BURN UP A LOT OF TIRE TREAD!!!

# Your Trip...YOUR turn!

We want to hear from YOU! Tell us about your wackiest and craziest summer vacation memories! Vote for your favorite 5 places to visit & we'll keep track of the entries. See if your favorite wins!

### My 5 Favorite Places to visit

- 1 \_\_\_\_\_
- 2 \_\_\_\_\_
- 3 \_\_\_\_\_
- 4 \_\_\_\_\_
- 5 \_\_\_\_\_

The roughest road was...

The coolest thing on wheels I saw...

My parents got really lost in...

PLEASE Don't ever make me go back to...

Yuk! I almost got carsick in... (a.k., so I really did get carsick)

We had a flat tire in...

The weirdest thing I saw was... (family members don't count)

The smelliest town I visited...

## Old Tires Quiz

Test Yourself! How many things can you list that are made from recycled tires? Use the articles of [Kansas Kids Can](#) to help you. Give yourself 5 points for each answer. Answers on the back.

1. \_\_\_\_\_ 6. \_\_\_\_\_
2. \_\_\_\_\_ 7. \_\_\_\_\_
3. \_\_\_\_\_ 8. \_\_\_\_\_
4. \_\_\_\_\_ 9. \_\_\_\_\_
5. \_\_\_\_\_ 10. \_\_\_\_\_

**SEND IT IN!** Send in this page with your information and a photo of yourself and we will print everything we can. See if your favorite place to vacation wins!

**Mail in this page to:** Kansas Kids Can, 1000 SW Jackson, Suite 320, Topeka, KS 66612.

Name \_\_\_\_\_  
 School \_\_\_\_\_  
 Address \_\_\_\_\_  
 City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Recycling is important to me because \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_