

Ecotip of the Week 4-9-17

What Happens to Used Tires?

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California and 10 other states ban tires from landfills partly because tires can “float.” The term “floating” refers to a strange phenomenon observable when surrounding garbage compacts and degrades, and vehicles drive over a landfill. Tires can rise to the surface, eventually breaking a landfill’s cap, letting in too much water and potentially resulting in emissions of methane, a greenhouse gas.

Also, exposed tires can collect and heat rainwater, creating conditions conducive to breeding mosquitoes.

As an alternative to disposal, tire reuse is possible; some local dealers buy and sell used tires. Retreading is also available, but, in Ventura County, just for truck tires.

The two main local options for used tires are monofilling or recycling. A monofill is a landfill for a single item, and one in Azusa accepts tires from much of Ventura County.

For recycling, local sorting centers and some local tire dealers send tires to CRM, in Compton, or to BAS, in Moreno Valley. The recycling centers make “crumb rubber,” which they sell to manufacturers of rubber mulch, rubberized asphalt, and other products.

When buying new tires, encourage your tire dealer to send your old tires to a recycler.