

NEWSLETTER

Tires + Summer Heat: Why Summer Sees More Illegal Dumping

What does this mean for community solid waste?

More of our community members take advantage of the summer months for road trips, and July's hot temperatures make tire problems more common. As the heat rises, the air inside tires expands, increasing internal pressure. Worn tread can't handle that extra stress, which leads to more blowouts on highways and rural roads across the Panhandle.

Why it increases in July

Some tires are disposed of properly — but many others end up illegally dumped in alleys, at brush sites, or along county roads. These abandoned tires create cleanup costs, attract pests, and violate state disposal rules.

More blowouts from heat

High temperatures cause air inside tires to expand, increasing internal pressure. Worn tread can't handle the stress, leading to more blowouts on highways and rural roads.

More tire replacements before road trips

Families prepare for summer travel by replacing old tires, but not everyone disposes of the old ones properly.



Why Tires Don't Belong in Recycling Systems

Municipal recycling and brush programs continue to see tires show up in loads where they don't belong. Whether they arrive through alley cleanups, roll-off contamination, or general misplacement, tires create equipment issues, add disposal costs, and complicate compliance for solid waste operations.



Tires require specialized handling & equipment

Tire recycling is a separate, regulated industry.

- ✓ Industrial shredders
- ✓ Wire-removal systems
- ✓ Crumb-rubber grinders
- ✓ Permitted storage and transport



Regulatory requirements prevent tires from entering recycling loads

Proper tire processing requires:

- ✓ Track tire quantities
- ✓ Store tires safely
- ✓ Use licensed haulers or processors
- ✓ Prevent tire stockpiling

None of these systems generally exist in municipal recycling centers. Tires must be managed through permitted tire disposal or recycling channels, not general recycling streams.

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Market Update - Paper Prices Push Upward

Paper markets strengthened this month, with every major grade showing gains at the direct-mill level. These increases provide municipalities with a more stable revenue outlook, especially as other commodities experienced declines. The July numbers reflect a strengthening paper sector and continued demand across OCC, office grades, and ledger materials.

- OCC

July: \$90/ton

June: \$80/ton

- SOP (High Grade Office)

July: \$90/ton

June: \$80/ton

- Mixed Paper

July: \$25/ton

June: \$20/ton

- Deink (38 Newspaper)

July: \$25/ton

June: \$20/ton

- White Ledger

July: \$205/ton

June: \$200/ton



If your recycling center is ready to schedule a pickup or you want to make sure you're getting the best price for your baled materials, contact:

Katrena Volden - 806-372-3381

Let's keep those materials moving and make the most of strong market conditions!

Direct mill runs remain available for full loads of a single baled commodity, shipped at no cost to participating members.

Community Update - Swisher County

Swisher County wrapped up three successful tire recycling events this season, giving residents a convenient way to properly dispose of unwanted tires. Participation was strong enough to fill four trailers, keeping those tires out of alleys, brush sites, and rural roads.

Great job, Swisher County — a solid win for local cleanup efforts and regional recycling goals.



About the Panhandle Regional Planning Commission (PRPC)

The Panhandle Regional Planning Commission supports communities across the 26 counties of the Texas Panhandle through regional programs in solid waste, recycling, public safety, economic development, and local government assistance. PRPC works closely with cities, counties, and partner organizations to strengthen services, expand resources, and promote long-term sustainability throughout the region. From coordinating recycling initiatives to supporting community planning efforts, PRPC is committed to helping Panhandle communities thrive.