



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Free Tire Recycling Event Near Nugents Corner This Saturday Only

Whatcom Residents Urged to Help Themselves and The Environment By Recycling Old Tires

BELLINGHAM, WA -- Tires are an important recyclable resource. They're also a potent environmental contaminant if left out to rot. That's why the Whatcom County Health Department and Public Works Department are sponsoring a free tire recycling event for Whatcom county residents this Saturday, October 23.

Residents can drop off 15 standard car or light truck tires, with or without rims, at the Cedarville Drop Box Facility & Recycling center, located at 3463 Cedarville Road in Bellingham, near Nugents Corner off of Mt. Baker Highway. The event runs from 9:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Tires from businesses, tractors or large trucks cannot be processed and will not be accepted. Residents with oversized tires should call (360) 778-6033 for information about disposal options.

The upcoming tire recycling event will be the second opportunity for free tire recycling this year. Last Saturday, October 16, Whatcom county residents delivered more than 1500 tires for free disposal.

"Last week was a good haul," said Bill Angel, environmental health specialist at the Whatcom County Health Department. "But we were hoping and prepared for many more customers and tires."



More than 1500 tires were recycled on October 16.

Tires can be expensive to dispose of properly, and improperly disposed tires can seriously harm the environment. Preservatives in tires leach chemicals that harm salmon, according to [a study](#) from the University

of Washington Tacoma. Piles of waste tires pose a significant fire hazard, since tire fires are difficult to put out, burn for a long time and produce toxic black smoke.

Waste tires also pose a public health hazard. According to the [Washington State Department of Ecology](#), waste tires are breeding grounds for mosquitoes, especially if many tires are left out in the open in large piles. Water collects on the inside of the tire and stagnates, providing excellent habitat for mosquito larvae. Besides being a nuisance, mosquitoes can transmit a number of diseases, even in the Northwest, including West Nile Virus. Other pests such as mice, rats and snakes also make themselves at home in abandoned tires.

“If anyone knows someone with a lot of tires they need to get rid of, let them know about the recycling event happening this weekend,” Angel said. “We’re hoping to be very busy.”

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