



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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CITY OF VALLEJO TO HOST TIRE AMNESTY DAY APRIL 17, 2004

VALLEJO – Got an old tire in your garage that you’ve been meaning to get rid of? Not sure where to take it? Thinking about tossing it in an alley or an empty lot?

Think again.

The City of Vallejo, thanks to a grant from the California Integrated Waste Management Board, is holding a Tire Recycling Day on Saturday, April 17.

The event, which begins at 9 a.m. and takes place in the parking lot next to City Hall, will give Vallejo residents an opportunity to drop off up to five passenger or light truck tires for recycling free of charge. Illegal dumping of old, used tires is a serious problem in Vallejo. Old tires are breeding grounds for mosquitoes, can become a serious fire hazard and cost the city thousands of dollars a year to clean up.

“Illegal dumping of old, used tires is a major issue for the City,” said Nimat Shakoor-Grantham, Code Enforcement Manager for the City of Vallejo. “Events like these can address that problem and, hopefully, make people aware of the seriousness of the situation.”

It’s illegal to put old tires in landfills. Instead they are either safely burned to produce electricity, fuel kilns in cement factories and provide drainage layers in large civil engineering project. Old tires are also ground up and mixed into asphalt, manufactured into a spongy material for resurfacing playgrounds, and reprocessed into rubber mats, landscaping bark and other consumer products.

“But the key to using old tires for those uses is getting the tires in the first place,” said Derek Crutchfield, the City’s Recycling Coordinator. “That’s what makes events like our so important.”

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The following tips will help drivers get more miles and value out of their tires:

- Check tire pressure once a month with a tire pressure gauge when tires are cold and the car hasn't been driven recently. Look on the sidewall of the tires for correct air pressure.
- Have your tires rotated every 5,000 to 8,000 miles
- Inspect your tires once a month for signs of wear. Uneven wear is an indication of a potential problem, such as need for a front end alignment, new shock absorbers, or something as simple as having your tires balanced.
- If you place a penny in the tread with Lincoln's head upside down and facing you and can still see the top of Lincoln's head, it's time to replace your tires.

The Tire Recycling Day is available to the first 300 residents who contact the City of Vallejo Code Enforcement Division at 648-5526. City staff will then send out a confirmation card, which must be brought to the recycling event along with proof of Vallejo residency. Participants should enter the City Hall parking lot from the Santa Clara Street entrance. Businesses are not allowed to participate.