

INDUSTRY RECOMMENDED PRACTICES

Managing Scrap Cardboard Material

ISSUE:

For most businesses within the tire industry, cardboard scrap is an unavoidable part of doing business. Cardboard is used to ship over 90% of all U.S. products. Industry sources indicate that approximately 29 million tons of cardboard is generated annually. When properly managed, nearly 100% of this scrap cardboard can be recycled and has a positive value for the recycler. If your business is paying to have your scrap cardboard hauled to a landfill, you may be overlooking a source of revenue.

INDUSTRY RECOMMENDED PRACTICES:

Establish a cardboard recycling program within your business to reduce costs and to save valuable resources.

- Take a visual inventory to determine how much cardboard is being generated. Segregating the cardboard will help quantify the weight or volume.
- Contact your local recycler, trash hauler or other disposal contractors to obtain a price list and guidelines for preparing and collecting your recyclable cardboard.
- Designate an area where the cardboard can be flattened and kept dry. Install signage identifying designated collection/storage areas.
- Provide a checklist of contaminants that need to be removed. For example, wet cardboard can clog the automated sorting machines at most recycling and sorting facilities. Ask your cardboard recycler how to manage cardboard that is wet or contains grease, oil or other contaminants.
- Establish the best storage method for the recyclable cardboard, this could be a small bin or a large baler depending on the amount of cardboard being generated.
- Discuss the recycling program with your employees. Educating them on the importance of recycling will ensure maximum participation. Ask for suggestions or install a suggestion box and offer an incentive program to create awareness and drive participation.
- Appoint a recycling coordinator to manage your recycling program.

ENVIRONMENTAL FACTS:

Recycling 1 ton of cardboard saves the following resources:

- 390 KW hours of electricity
- 46 gallons of oil
- 6.6 million BTU's of energy
- 9 cubic yards of landfill space

WHEN REFERENCING THIS RECOMMENDATION, BE SURE TO FOLLOW ALL FEDERAL, STATE, AND LOCAL LAWS AND REGULATIONS RELATING TO THIS SUBJECT.