

# Scrap Tire Marketing Program

Revised 1/19

## SEPTIC DRAIN FIELD FACT SHEET

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### **How can scrap tire rubber be used in septic drain fields?**

Scrap tire rubber is processed into approximately two inch pieces referred to as tire-derived aggregate (TDA). TDA is then used as a replacement for stone/gravel around the perforated effluent pipes.

### **What are the benefits of using TDA?**

- Lighter than stone, making it easier to transport and work with
- More void space than stone (62% compared to 44%), allowing it to hold more water
- Provides equal or better hydraulic performance compared to stone
- Often lower cost than stone
- Environmental benefit of recycling scrap tires

### **Does corrosion of the steel belts affect system performance?**

Though corrosion does occur in the TDA, it does not affect the performance of the leach field.

### **Does using TDA in leach field trenches require any special maintenance relative to stone?**

TDA does not require any additional maintenance when compared to stone.

### **Will using TDA cause dangerous chemicals to leach into the soil and groundwater?**

While it has been found that iron and zinc levels are increased directly below the aggregate/soil interface, these levels are not considered a health hazard. Research shows that the presence of iron and zinc associated with TDA can be effectively reduced if the material is washed before use.

### **Has TDA for use in drainage fields been approved by the Department of Public Health?**

Companies are permitted individually by ADPH to manufacture TDA for use in septic drain fields. Samples of TDA must be provided and use of TDA must meet regulatory conditions of installation. These requirements and specifications may be obtained by contacting the Alabama Department of Public Health Soil and Onsite Sewage Branch at (334) 206-5373.