



**KDHE/Bureau of Waste Management**

**785-296-1600**

The Bureau of Waste Management has a Waste Tire Grant program to establish programs to recycle waste tires into new products. Waste Tires can be recycled into playground surfaces, athletic fields, rubberized asphalt, drainage systems, building materials, tire derived fuel, and daily cover at a permitted (Subtitle D) solid waste facility if the facility's permit allows. In addition, financial assistance will now be available to local governments which purchase products made from recycled tires that provide safe playground cover.

[http://www.kdheks.gov/waste/bwm\\_grants.html](http://www.kdheks.gov/waste/bwm_grants.html)

## **Rubber Mulch Vs. Wood Chips**

When it comes to controlling weeds in your garden, putting down wood chips is one option. But having to do it every year is a lot of work. Now there are products that claim to work just as well as wood chips, but last for 12 years.

**As an alternative to wood chips, manufacturers are now offering mulch made out of rubber.** Consumer Reports recently tested two types: DuPont Garden Products' Long-Lasting Mulch, which costs about \$14 per cubic foot, and Rubber Stuff Landscape Mulch, which goes for about \$15.

1. Both claim to eliminate the need for annual mulching, because rubber doesn't break down like regular wood chips. The makers of the two products also promise that, unlike regular mulch, they won't float away. The makers of Rubber Stuff Landscape Mulch claim it won't blow away, either.
2. "The rubber mulch did just as well as the wood mulch did," said Consumer Reports' Larry Ciufo. "It had some weeds at the edges but that's expected." In the end, Consumer Reports said both products did deliver on their promises. They stay put, prevent weeds, and should save you a lot of time in your garden.
3. However, Consumer Reports said there are downsides to rubber mulch. They don't introduce nutrients into the soil and they won't retain as much moisture as regular wood chips. As a result, they're best used around hardy trees and shrubs. In the long run, rubber mulch will cost less than woods chips because it lasts so much longer and you don't have to use as much.

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Recycling is proven to create jobs, and to conserve energy and natural resources. It also decreases the volume of waste material disposed into our local landfills. Kansas - Don't Spoil It. Get Caught Recycling!!