

Disposing of old railroad ties from my home

How do I get rid of old railroad ties from around my house?

The City of Brooklyn cannot accept rail road ties at the Service Garage. With our landfill currently closed we take our refuse to the City of Cleveland. The City of Cleveland is not permitted to accept rail road ties at their facility. The following are recommendations of the Ohio EPA on how to dispose of old rail road ties.

Ohio EPA promotes recycling whenever possible and encourages homeowners with old railroad ties to find someone else that can use them. Railroad ties can be used to make retaining walls, parking lot bumpers, etc. Local organizations such as Habitat for Humanity may be able to utilize the railroad ties. Ohio EPA also maintains a list of wood and pallet recyclers that may be able to recycle the ties through our Web site at www.epa.ohio.gov/ocapp/recycle.aspx.

If recycling of your railroad ties is not an option, they should be disposed of in a solid waste or construction and demolition debris landfill.

The following sites will accept rail road ties. There may be a charge involved.

BOYAS EXCAVATING, INC.
11311 Rockside Road
Valley View, OH 44125
(216) 524-3620
Open all year round. Drop-off only. 7:30-5:00 (M-F).

KURTZ BROS., INC.
850 Valley Belt Road
Brooklyn Heights, OH 44131
(216) 986-7021

ROSBY RESOURCE RECYCLING
4963 Schaaf Lane
Brooklyn Heights, OH 44131
(216) 661-6102
Licensed class IV compost facility. 9:00-5:00 (M-F).

Creosote is a wood preservative that has been used for a long time to treat commercial-grade wood like utility poles and railroad ties. Creosote is not used for treating wood that's typically used in a residential setting, however, it is common to find old railroad ties at homes that have been used for landscaping materials. Because of this, U.S. EPA has done some studies and published guidelines for homeowners on handling creosote treated materials. As far as additional precautions, U.S. EPA specifically recommends that homeowners:

DO NOT burn creosote-treated wood in open fires or in stoves, fireplaces, or residential boilers, because toxic chemicals may be produced as part of the smoke and ashes.

- **DO** avoid frequent or prolonged skin contact with creosote-treated wood;
- **DO** wear long-sleeve shirts and long pants and use gloves impervious to the chemicals when handling treated wood;
- **DO** wear goggles to protect eyes if power-sawing treated wood; and
- **DO** wash any work clothes coming into contact with treated wood separately from other household clothing.