

Benefits of Recycled Rubber

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Recycled rubber plays a vital yet largely unseen role in our lives. We interact with it on a daily basis and it enables us to do many of the things we love the most.



■ Environmental Benefits:

Recycling rubber tires means that millions of scrap tires are no longer dumped in landfills, or left illegally in lakes, abandoned lots, along the side of the road and in sensitive habitats. Instead, more than 90 percent of these tires are being recycled and reused annually.

Recycling saves impressive amounts of energy, which ultimately reduces greenhouse gas emissions. For example, recycling four tires reduces CO₂ by about 323 pounds, which is equivalent to 18 gallons of gasoline.

Using recycled rubber in molded products, for example, creates a substantially smaller (by a factor of up to 20 times) carbon footprint as compared to using virgin plastic resins



■ Economic Benefits:

In addition to being an environmental steward, the rubber recycling industry plays a prominent role as both an economic leader and job creator.

According to a 2015 study conducted by John Dunham and Associates, the rubber recycling industry generates more than **\$1.6 billion annually in economic activity**. This includes, providing nearly **8,000 good paying jobs** (direct and indirect) in all 50 states that generate more than **\$500 million in employee wages** and **\$182 million** in federal, state, and local tax revenues.



■ Expanding Opportunity through Design:

Recycled rubber is being used by manufacturers in a wide variety of applications today. Manufacturers prize scrap as a raw material input due in part to cost and energy savings.

Here are a number of settings where we see recycled rubber most:

MEDICAL: Hospital floors and surgical gloves

– *providing comfort and quiet for medical professionals and patients*

AGRICULTURE: Vegetation protectors and windbreaks, sheds, livestock mats, bumpers, and feeders

– *increasing yield and efficiency for the agricultural sector*

SPORTS: Infill for synthetic turf fields (of which there are more than 12,000 in the U.S.), indoor and outdoor running tracks, and fitness mats

– *broadening sports and fitness opportunities across the country*

PLAYGROUND SURFACES: Mulch and mats

– *cushioning our children's falls*

INFRASTRUCTURE: Rubberized asphalt on roadways

– *providing surface durability while lessening traffic noise*

OTHER: Landscaping mulch, molded products such as railroad ties, flowerpots, garden hoses, benches, and welcome mats

– *creating useful everyday products*

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