

Benefits

Environmental

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 when compared to virgin plastic resins.

Economic

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.



Safe Fields Alliance

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The Facts About Recycled Rubber

America drives, works, and plays on Recycled Rubber



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What is recycled rubber?

- Recycled rubber is rubber that has been derived from scrap materials such as used tires.
- Recycled rubber gives us innovative ways to reduce waste, from facilitating safer playground surfaces, reducing the chance of injuries for athletes, and building lower-impact hospital floors for nurses on their feet all day.
- Roughly 110 million tires are recycled or reused annually – or one tire for every three people in the U.S.

Why should we be recycling scrap tires?

- Tires, designed to be virtually indestructible under a variety of conditions, have historically been difficult to dispose of or recycle.
- In most cases, old and worn tires were replaced and dumped illegally in nature and in potentially sensitive habitats. Others were added to landfills.
- Scrap tire rubber is used to make new tires, playground surfaces, equestrian mats, and rubberized asphalt—among other products.
- Tire recycling is an economically sound, environmentally-friendly activity that can contribute to the reduction of a product's overall carbon footprint by anywhere from four to 20 percent when compared to virgin materials.

Improving Design

Recycled tires and rubber are 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 in the following settings:



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



PLAYGROUND SURFACES

Mulch and mats

- cushioning our children's falls



INFRASTRUCTURE

Rubberized asphalt on roadways

- providing surface durability while lessening traffic noise

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



OTHER

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

- creating useful everyday products

