



THE FACTS:

Scientists have studied recycled rubber over and over again, and the evidence is clear... Crumb rubber material used in artificial turf or as a playground surface poses no significant health or environmental risk.

A study by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency has revealed that recycled tire material is safe. The data the EPA collected came from synthetic turf fields and playgrounds, which revealed that concentrations of components monitored in the study were below levels of concern.

Particulate matter, metals and volatile organic compounds (VOCs) were measured in the air samples and compared with areas away from the crumb rubber, where the results were similar. No tire-related fibers were observed in the air samples, and all air concentrations of particulate matter and lead were below levels of concern.

Studies in New York and in California have come to similar conclusions. Crumb rubber products do not pose significant health or environmental risks...

- A California EPA study from July 2009 found that there is no significant health risk to people who breathe the air above synthetic turf that contains crumb rubber. The study looked at the chemicals found in the air above the turf and the chemicals found in the air upwind from the fields that were analyzed. *The conclusion: The chemicals were found in similar concentrations in both samples.*
- A 2007 study by the California EPA evaluated the health effects of recycled tires in playground and track products. *The results: The study found no significant evidence that the recycled rubber posed a cancer or health risk.*
- In New York, the state's departments of Environmental Conservation and Health conducted an exhaustive study, releasing their findings in May of 2009. *Bottom line: Crumb rubber used in synthetic turf fields poses no significant environmental threat or health concerns.*





THE BENEFITS:

Rubber mulch on playgrounds promotes safety...

- Recycled rubber can cushion a child's fall from as high as 16 feet.
- Recycled rubber will not decompose, or easily float or blow away.
- Recycled rubber does not harbor insects or support mold or mildew.
- Recycled rubber safety surfacing is nontoxic.

Recycled rubber surfaces are environmentally friendly...

- Each year, 25 million used auto tires are transformed into safe playing surfaces.
- Recycled rubber safety surfaces not only save trees from becoming organic mulch, but provide an innovative and productive outlet for scrap tires.

Athletic fields made of synthetic turf conserve water...

- Grass fields require 50,000 gallons of water per week or more to remain healthy during the growing season.
- Natural turf also requires the use of fertilizers and pesticides.

Major professional sporting organizations use crumb rubber surfaces as their fields of play every day...

- About half of all NFL teams currently play their games on synthetic turf.
- It is also approved for World Cup soccer matches.