

# HEALTH & SAFETY EXPLAINER

# RECYCLED RUBBER

You may have heard claims about recycled rubber and negative health effects on humans. These claims are unsubstantiated conspiracies, easily refuted by science. Here's what you need to know:



## WHAT IS RECYCLED RUBBER?

Recycled rubber is produced from tires. Materials like fiber and wire are moved and the rubber is cleaned and then ground into "crumb rubber." At no point in the process does the rubber undergo any chemical change. In short, recycled rubber is rubber. The recycled rubber can then be used for a wide variety of applications, including in play-surfaces, hospital floors, roads and sidewalks, and even shoes.

## WHY ARE PEOPLE CONCERNED ABOUT RECYCLED RUBBER?

False stories on the negative health effects of recycled rubber took off following unsubstantiated claims made by an associate soccer coach at University of Washington. This coach claimed to have a list of players who played on synthetic turf and happened to develop cancer. While these claims were picked up by media and worried parents, it is important to note that these claims had NO scientific backing whatsoever.



## 100+ STUDIES SHOW THE TRUTH

To date, there have been **100+ scientific studies**, including peer-reviewed academic analyses and federal and state government reports, that have thus far found **no significant health risk associated with synthetic turf containing recyclable rubber infill.**



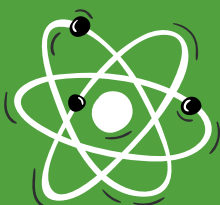
### Washington State Dept. of Health

The Washington State Dept. of Health published an April 2017 study testing unsubstantiated claims that soccer players were more likely to get cancer due to crumb rubber exposure. The research found that identified players actually had lower rates of cancer compared to peer groups.



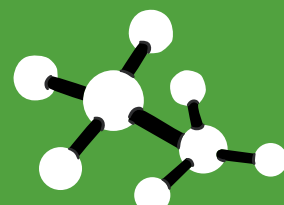
### Sports Medicine

Dr. Archie Bleyer published a 2017 study in which he found the state of adolescent cancer causation research does not support claims of connection to crumb rubber, and Bleyer concluded that decreasing exercise by reducing access to playgrounds and sports fields may actually increase the rate of cancer occurrence among children in later life.



### European Chemicals Agency

The European Chemicals Agency published a February 2017 study which found no reason to advise people against playing sports on synthetic turf containing recycled rubber granules as infill material, based on finding a very low level of concern from exposure to substances found in rubber granules.



### Environmental Research

An environmental research team published a January 2018 study which found that all estimated exposure risk scenarios fell within EPA guidelines, and that cancer levels for synthetic turf field users were comparable to or lower than those associated with natural soil fields.