



## Synthetic turf helps the environment

**“Keeps more than 105 million used tires out of landfills. Most of the synthetic turf sports fields and landscape applications in use incorporate crumb rubber infill recycled from used tires, keeping more than 105 million used tires out on landfills.”** - Rick Doyle, Synthetic Turf Council

Landscape Management, March 7, 2011 — Athletic Turf News

<http://www.landscapemanagement.net/athletic-turf-core-pages/synthetic-turf-helps-environment>

## Can someone explain this?

Okay, put on your thinking cap because this is going to be a challenge. Can someone explain the logic of the above quote to us?

Imagine seeing over 105 million tires. I know that's hard to do, but give it a try. Okay, got the picture? Good. We don't really want all those tires in some landfill do we? Of course not! They're not good for the environment.

But wait! Rick Doyle of the Synthetic Turf Council sounds enthusiastic because he says the synthetic turf industry came up with a great solution. Just mulch all those tires (all 105 million of them) into itsy bitsy pieces of crumb rubber and spread that crumb rubber all over the place. And now, thanks to the foresight and ingenuity of the synthetic turf folks, those tires aren't in landfills, no sir, now they're spread all over the place -- in sports stadiums, on athletic fields, scattered in our parks, covering some school and community playgrounds and you'll even find crumb rubber in some backyards.

Now here's the challenge because we must be missing something . . . can someone explain how this is good for the environment? If the tires aren't safe in landfills because they're bad for the environment, how does spreading them everywhere else help the environment? One would think that 105 million tires equals 105 million tires no matter how you cut it! -J. Novak

### State landfill regulations:

- 38 states ban whole tires from landfills.
- 35 states allow shredded tires to be placed in landfills.
- 11 states ban all tires from landfills.
- 17 states allow processed tires to be placed into monofills.
- 8 states have no restrictions on placing scrap tires in landfills.

*(Source: Rubber Manufacturers Association, 2003)*

### TABLE OF STATE LEGISLATION OF SCRAP TIRES

[http://www.rma.org/publications/scrap\\_tires/index.cfm?PublicationID=11507](http://www.rma.org/publications/scrap_tires/index.cfm?PublicationID=11507)