Recycling rubber

Most of the world’s rubber is used to make tyres. Millions of them are made every year. Getting rid of old tyres is a serious problem. Recycling could be the answer.

Getting rid of tyres

It is not easy to get rid of old tyres because rubber does not rot. Burying or burning old tyres makes gases that pollute the air. Storing tyres is a fire risk, and could provide shelter for rats and other pests.

Recycling tyres

Old tyres can be cut up into tiny chips. These can be used to make floor coverings or a safe rubber surface for playgrounds or sports tracks. They can also be used in pavements, runways and roads. Rubber makes these surfaces quieter and helps them to last longer.

An old tyre makes the perfect swing.

Fantastic fact

There are about 2 billion old tyres in the United States alone – and 250 million more are added every year.