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# The Recycling Times



HADCO Group's Recycling Division Monthly E-Newsletter



Image Credit: [Unsplash](#)

## Recycling Tyres in Trinidad and Tobago

It is estimated that Trinidad and Tobago has 1.5 million used tyres to be disposed of every year. Luckily, HADCO's Recycling Division has been busy all year testing equipment designed to solve this problem, and the results have been promising!

Through a series of investments from HADCO Group, as well as grant funding from the Inter-American Development Bank, Ecoimpact Co. Limited is in the final phases of rolling out our End-of-Life Tyre Recycling Facility in Freeport.

This facility will be specifically for collecting and processing used tyres into raw materials for new rubber and steel wire-based products.

This unique investment is just one of the ways in which HADCO's Recycling Division is ensuring we do our part to preserve our planet for years to come.

In this issue of our Recycling Times, we briefly cover the benefits of recycling used tyres, the new products that can be made from them, and how citizens, tyre shops, and garages can get involved.

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**"WE ARE IN THE FINAL STAGES OF GETTING OUR 'END-OF-LIFE TYRE RECYCLING FACILITY OPERATIONAL. WE ARE EXCITED TO BEGIN TURNING OUR WASTE TYRES INTO NEW AND VIABLE RAW MATERIALS."**

Kevin Whiteman -  
Managing Director,  
Recycling Division,  
HADCO Group

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## The Tyre Problem

A [2021 market report](#) indicated that globally 1.6 billion new tyres are created every year. Of that figure, it is suggested that one billion tyres become unfit for use and obsolete.

The used tyres eventually make their way to scrapyards and landfills and take anywhere from 50 to 80 years to decompose in the earth.

However, some waste tyres never find their way to scrapyards or landfills. Instead, millions of waste tyres can be found carelessly discarded on the roadsides, or piled up on the banks of rivers, in drains, or anywhere else that is out of sight and out of mind.

The indiscriminate dumping and burning of tyres pollutes communities, blocks waterways, and releases toxic fumes which impact the overall air quality.



Tyres piling up in a community scrapyard in Kentucky, United States  
Image Credit: [Lexington Kentucky Council](#)



Tyres thrown in a river in Mississippi, United States  
Image Credit: [Pearl River Keeper](#)



When burnt, tyres release very toxic fumes that have a number of health hazards as well as an impact on the overall air quality  
Image Credit: [Unsplash](#)

Zooming in a little closer to home, it is reported that around 3 million tyres are imported into Trinidad and Tobago every year.

As stated earlier, there are an estimated 1.5 million used tyres disposed of yearly.

If these statistics are true, that would mean that there are more waste tyres than the population of Trinidad and Tobago.

These statistics are a sobering reality of the tyre problem facing our planet today.



# How Tyres Are Turned Into New Raw Material

100% of the steel and rubber components from tyres can be extracted and processed into new raw materials through a series of shredding and grinding processes.

## 1. Steel Wire

The steel wire, otherwise known as the bead, makes up 10-20% of a tyre and runs along its inner part.

As the tyre comes to the end of its life cycle, the wire may be extracted and melted down to be re-used in future tyres and other steel-based products.



Scrap wire extracted from tyres can be re-sold for other uses  
Image Credit: [L.B. Industries](#)

## 2. Rubber Crumbs

Once the steel wire is removed, the rubber can be shredded into crumbs and sold as fuel, known as Tyre Derived Fuel (TDF).

TDF is considered a viable alternative to fossil fuels and is mainly used in cement kilns, paper mills, and industrial boilers.



Rubber crumbs can be used as an alternative fuel source  
Image Credit: [Flexdeal Export](#)

## 3. Rubber Powder

Rubber crumbs are further ground into a rubber powder. This is an extremely popular raw material used for AstroTurf football fields, stadium running tracks, and rubber flooring in gyms and playgrounds.

There is further use for rubber powder in what is known as 'modified asphalt,' or 'rubberised asphalt.'

The addition of rubber in the asphalt mixture results in less cracking and overall strengthened durability in roads and pavements.



Rubber powder can be ground into various granulated sizes for different uses  
Image Credit: [Biocaucho](#)



# Get Involved!

Join us as we work together to change the way Trinidad and Tobago recycles used motor vehicle tyres. Do you own a vehicle, tyre shop, or garage? If so, you can become a part of our ever-expanding partner network.

Contact us at (868) 673-4395 / 5172 or email us at [ecoimpact.info@hadcoltd.com](mailto:ecoimpact.info@hadcoltd.com) to find out more about how you can become a part of the solution! Alternatively, you can find us at the business address below.

**Ecoimpact Tyre Recycling Facility - Unit 6, FWC, Rajkumar Trace, Freeport Village, Freeport.**



The many uses of recycled rubber from tyres

From left to right: Running track, shingles for roofing, modified asphalt, children's playground flooring, rubber soles for shoes, gymnasium flooring

For more information on our Recycling Division  
visit us at [www.hadcoltd.com/divisions/recycling](http://www.hadcoltd.com/divisions/recycling)

