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Majority of Auto Repair Shops Recycle Tires

Today's auto repair shops do much more than fix cars. They also play a key role in protecting the environment. According to a study by the Automotive Aftermarket Industry Association, Bethesda, MD (AAIA), 88 percent report they recycle tires.

"Many people aren't aware of the widespread environmental thinking and practices in auto repair shops in the areas of recycling, disposal and facilities management," Rich White, executive director, Car Care Council said.

"Shops have practiced sustainability for decades, and as a result, they have made huge contributions to a cleaner environment."

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Edge Rubber Continues to be the "Standard of the Industry"

For almost twenty-five years, Edge Rubber's Chambersburg facility has supplied over 350 million pounds of high quality engineered fine rubber powder to tire manufacturers around the world who have used Edge's powders in the manufacture of approximately 750 million tires.

First built as a recycled rubber processing plant in 1988, the facility has had a steady history of ground rubber production and distribution becoming, in recent years, a leading recycled rubber refinery capable of turning out engineered rubber powders and products that meet manufacturers' strict material specifications.

The plant's greatest growth - over 250 percent - occurred in the last ten years under the Edge Rubber banner.

Even more recently, Edge has doubled its shipments of fine rubber powders from 40 loads a month last October to 75-80 loads a month now. Sam Kauffman, Edge's President and CEO, says growth is being driven by existing customers expanding their production and a record number of new customers coming on line.

He attributes this growth to several factors including the rising cost of virgin materials as well as a shortage of materials like carbon black, SBS and other polymers, Rubber mixers and compounders are increasing the use of recycled materials adding to the demand for fine powders.

Perhaps, most significantly, Kauffman said, manufacturers in the auto supply chain, including tire manufacturers, are looking for and demanding a high level of sophistication from their suppliers.

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Nevada's Busy Freeway Paved With Rubberized Asphalt

In Nevada, Interstate 15 (I-15) in and around Las Vegas, sees far more traffic than any other road in the state. In July, according to the most recent data available, an average of 262,182 vehicles traveled daily on I-15.

Last month, the Nevada Department of Transportation (NVDOT) began repaving an eight-mile stretch of concrete pavement on this busy freeway using a rubberized asphalt mix. This section of I-15, which hasn't had any major resurfacing done in 15 years, is getting a new one-inch layer of rubberized asphalt. The pavement mixture will use about 450 tons of crumb rubber mixed with asphalt cement and aggregate to make about 25,000 tons of asphalt. The rubberized asphalt was laid in a one-inch thick layer over the existing concrete pavement.

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