When the Rubber Leaves the Road— Don't Toss That Tube!

San Francisco throws away over 100,000 bicycle inner tubes annually, enough to wrap the Golden Gate Bridge more than 33 times.

The Rubber Impact Project is working to stop this **DEAD END** material flow where rubber goes straight to landfill where it can't break down, it's value as a resource lost.

Unlike plastic water bottles and containers, there are few organized efforts for the public to recycle or reclaim inner tube rubber, also a kind of petroleum based plastic. Rubber creates a heavy impact on our planet through its manufacture and waste. In most cases, the material is only minimally damaged and could be reused for a variety of purposes.

Rubber Impact Project

Working to Close the LOOP and Promote REUSE

SUPPORT MATERIAL REUSE AND ZERO WASTE!

TAKE A TUBE for expanded USE & REUSE

PROPERTIES: Durable, flexible, stretchable, water/stain resistant, with inherent curves and markings, and easily cut with scissors and other cutting tools.

Post-consumer bicycle inner tube rubber is an engaging material to work with and a sustainable resource for art, craft, design, prototyping, model making, and other uses.

www.rubberimpact.net

Facilitating AWARENESS and ACTION

What can be done with old inner tubes instead of sending them to landfill?

The Rubber Impact Project is working to highlight rubber waste issues and to normalize the practice of repurposing and upcycling inner tube rubber. The durability, flexibility, and stain resistance of inner tubes makes them ideal for reuse once they can no longer be used as originally intended. So keep this material resource in play and support ZERO WASTE through material reuse.

The projects shown in this flyer are a few basic reuse options. For more in-depth information about working with inner tube rubber please visit: **www.rubberimpact.net/rubber-crafting**

Rubber Bands

Bicycle inner tubes are great for making useful rubber bands in a variety of sizes depending on tube size and the width of the cut.

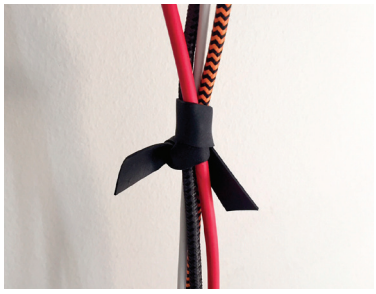
This activity is great for all ages. Easy to make and loads of fun!

MATERIALS: Bicycle inner tubes, scissors

- Using standard scissors, cut the bike tubes horizontally straight across the tube
- Experiment with cutting thinner and thicker slices
- The thinner the slice, the stretchier the band
- Don't cut rubber bands too thin or they will break

ReTies

ReTies are flexible multiuse ties repurposed from waste bicycle inner tubes. ***ReTies*** are great for a variety of uses, from providing support to climbing plants or trees (in place of nylon or polypropylene products), for creating slip-on sneakers, for organizing cables, or for long lasting and reusable ribbon for gift wrapping. ReTies are versatile and make for easy tying and loads of possibilities.



Cable Ties

MATERIALS: Bicycle inner tubes, scissors

- When prepping tubes, notice the existing lines that go along the length of the tube
- With scissors, cut strips from the bike tubes along the length of the tube using these lines as guides
- Cut strips of different widths and lengths
- Cut the ends at an angle to be more decorative

For more information please visit: **www.rubberimpact.net**

Bungee

Necklace

Earloops for Covid-19 Mask

Resistance Band

Door Stopper

Chew Toy

Rubber Impact Project

Keep material cycles going through DIRECT REUSE!

The mission of The Rubber Impact Project is to stop the DEAD END material flow of inner tube rubber going straight to landfill, its value as a resource lost.

Inner tubes are modern industrial skins offering unlimited potential for practical reuse or art and design projects. Reusing materials conserves global resources and reduces air and water pollution, and greenhouse gas emissions. Do your part to end the practice of throwing waste inner tubes in the garbage; **REUSE THEM** instead!

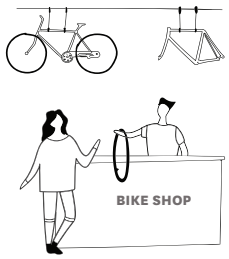
Collect & Prep

Close the LOOP through Material REUSE

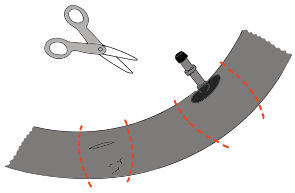
Collecting tubes for reuse is easy! Stop by your neighborhood bike shop for old tubes, or a material reuse location that handles old tubes.

1. **SOURCE AND COLLECT THE TUBES**
2. **REMOVE THE VALVE STEMS**
3. **CLEAN THE TUBES** (be aware, most inner tubes have talc inside, but it washes out easily)
4. **SORT TUBES BY SIZE AND THICKNESS, AND FOR INTERESTING MARKINGS**
5. **DESIGN AND RECRAFT BY CUTTING, PUNCHING, SEWING, LACING, ETC.**

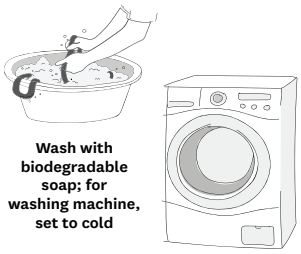
Don't toss that tube! There are lots of ways to reuse it



Looking for old tubes? Source and collect them at bike shops

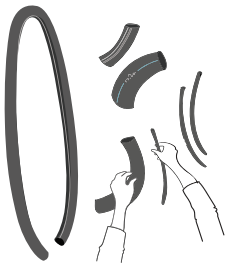


Remove valve stem and material damage

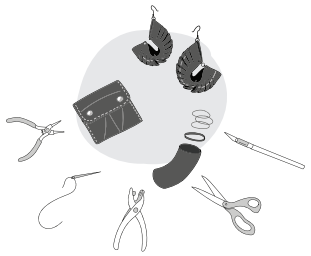


Wash with biodegradable soap; for washing machine, set to cold

Air dry, or set dryer at lowest heat for up to 5 minutes



Sort by size, thickness, and markings



Design and recraft by cutting, punching, sewing, weaving, and other techniques

For more information on crafting techniques please visit: www.rubberimpact.net/rubber-crafting

The Rubber Impact Project seeks to engage people of all ages to adopt a mindset and culture of reuse; to create a waste flow that incorporates reuse of inner tube rubber into a circular rubber economy; and to pressure the rubber industry to move toward greater sustainability and environmental responsibility.

The Rubber Impact Project is an educational and interventionist approach for disrupting the current bicycle inner tube waste stream in San Francisco by highlighting the full lifecycle of transportation rubber in order to raise awareness about its associated environmental impacts and to promote actions in support of zero waste.

Recipient of the 2019 Impact Award from California College of the Art's Center for Impact recognizing ground-breaking approaches and solutions in the field of sustainability and social impact through the lens of art & design.

For more information please visit: **www.rubberimpact.net**