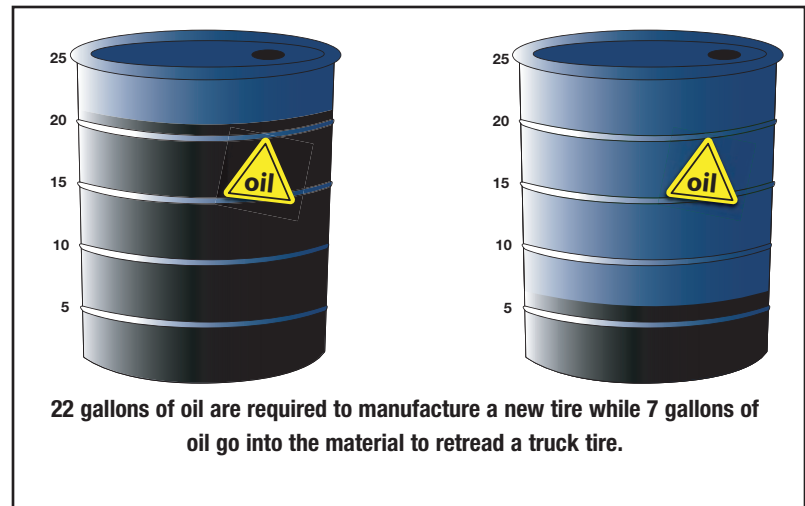


# The Environmental Benefits of Retreading

- Retreading is recycling. Retreading involves the re-use of most of the original tire “casing” and replaces the worn tread with a new tread, delivering the same balance of performance as the original product. Retreading a truck tire consumes significantly less oil to produce than a new tire, both in raw materials (many of which are made from oil derivatives) and energy consumed in the manufacturing process.
- It has been estimated that approximately 7 gallons of oil go into the material to retread a truck tire, as compared to the 22 gallons required to manufacture a new tire. The energy needed to retread a tire also has been estimated to require roughly 70% less energy than manufacturing a new one.
- Multiplying the 15 gallon savings per tire by the 13 million medium tires retreaded in 2009, equals a savings of over 195 million gallons of oil annually.
- According to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, the United States generated approximately 290 million scrap tires in 2003. Over the years, more than 800 million scrap tires have accumulated in stockpiles.
- Also according to the EPA: “A tire’s physical structure, durability, and heat-retaining characteristics make these stockpiles a potential threat to human health and the environment. The curved shape of a tire allows rainwater to collect and creates an ideal habitat for rodents and mosquitoes. Prone to heat retention, tires in stockpiles also can ignite, creating fires that are difficult to extinguish and can burn for months, generating unhealthy smoke and toxic oils.”



- While there are more uses for scrap tires than ever before, the best way to deal with scrap tires is to avoid generating them – i.e., retread them. The EPA cites the following benefits of retreaded tires:
  - Save resources by requiring 70 % less oil for production
  - Contain 75 % post-consumer material
  - Cost 30 to 70 % less than new tires
  - Save landfill space
- The EPA also states that: “Retread tires not only offer considerable environmental and economic benefits, but they also provide quality, comfort, and safety comparable to that of new tires.”
- Considering that about 13 million medium truck tires are retreaded annually, and thus remain out of tire piles and landfills, retreads make a significant contribution to cleaning up the environment.