



Trash Today, Track Tomorrow

OMF Partners with Nike to Collect and Recycle Worn Out Athletic Shoes

The OMF Green Team and the BHR Employee Wellness program are partnering with Nike to recycle old athletic shoes January 9 – 20 in The Portland Building lobby. Many organizations collect shoes to be given away and re-worn. This program is different because it reuses shoes that would normally head to the landfill. Better yet, the recycled content benefits communities here in Portland and around the world by providing a safe and cost-effective building alternative.

About Nike's Reuse-A-Shoe Program

Established in the early 1990s, Nike's Reuse-A-Shoe program collects old, worn-out athletic shoes for recycling, transforming them into a material called Nike Grind, which is used in running tracks, basketball and tennis courts, playground surfaces and even synthetic turf fields.

To create these surfaces, Nike partners with surfacing companies to develop innovative sports surfaces that usually contain 10 to 40 percent, sometimes even 100 percent, of Nike Grind. Incorporating Nike Grind in these surfaces decreases the need for new rubber and also offers an alternative to recycled materials like tire rubber, which may not meet consumer products safety guidelines. The use of Nike Grind and other recycled materials significantly reduces the amount of unnecessary waste that ends up in landfills.

Recycling in Action

One of the unique aspects of this recycling program is that it literally uses the entire shoe. Ever wonder how many worn-out shoes it takes to make a sports surface?

- Outdoor basketball court (midsole foam): 2,500 pairs
- Outdoor tennis court (midsole foam): 2,500 pairs
- Full field or soccer pitch (outsole rubber): 50,000-75,000 pairs
- Mini soccer field (outsole rubber): 10,000-20,000 pairs
- Running track (outsole rubber): 75,000 pairs
- Playground (outsole rubber): 2,500 pairs
- Indoor wood basketball court (upper fabric): 2,500 pairs
- Indoor synthetic basketball court (midsole foam): 2,500 pairs

Fun Fact:

25,056,779 shoes
have been recycled
with this program
since 1990

Additional Benefits of Nike Grink

- Nike Grind cushioning helps reduce stress on the body, which can prevent fatigue and injury.
- Low-maintenance, all-weather surface provides sure-footed grip in any season.
- Nike Grind meets consumer safety standards by design.
- A virtually odorless product – no intense rubber smell, even on hot days.
- Non-marking rubber – won't leave marks on balls, shoes or players.
- Surface reflects sunlight and generate up to 20 percent less heat build-up.
- Extremely durable and cost-effective.

Learn More

- [View the 300+ sport surfaces](#) around the world donated by Nike's community giving program.
- [Learn more about shoe recycling](#), including a short video of the shoe recycling process.

