

Lawmakers reject bills aimed at artificial turf

By Laurel Rosenhall, CalMatters

Is it safe for children to play on fields made of ground up old tires?

That's a question California scientists are studying in the wake of alarming media reports that featured cancer-stricken soccer players describing years of diving into artificial turf made of recycled tires.

The substance known as "crumb rubber" has made its way onto thousands of California schools and parks, where it helps cushion falls and conserve water. It's formed into mats on playgrounds and ground up into granules that cover fields of synthetic grass.

One reason so many play spaces are made of crumb rubber is that the state gives away money to encourage its use. To keep some tires out of landfills, California's recycling department has given \$42 million in grants since 2005 to communities that use materials made from old tires.

[Read the whole story](#)