



Rethink your relationship with tires

CASE STUDY

PATHWAYS HEALTH CENTRE FOR CHILDREN

FROM OLD TIRES TO INNOVATIVE SOLUTIONS



WHO

Pathways Health Centre for Children

WHERE

Sarnia, ON

WHAT

SofSURFACES' SofTILE Premium flooring installed on Pathway's new playground.

WHEN

Summer 2011

WHY

Pathways required a new playground. SofTILE provides a safe, durable, slip-resistant surface for children, catering to a range of mobility needs

Background

Pathways Health Centre for Children is a community agency that serves children and youth with physical, developmental and communication needs in the Lambton County area, as well as their families. During the summer of 2011, Pathways was in need of a playground for its

facility. Since outdoor play is an important part of any child's development, Pathways decided to install a playground that would cater to the children at the centre, including those with mobility issues.

Transforming Communities

In July of 2011, Pathways installed a playground for the children and families that frequent their centre. Looking for a safe, durable and slip-resistant surface, they went with SofSURFACES' SofTILE Premium flooring. This product uses a hollow-core impact pedestal design, which has been engineered with a series of shock absorbers on the underside of the tile to reduce the impact force associated with a fall.

North American playground standards require that playground surfaces pass a minimum level of safety performance, not to exceed 1000 Head Injury Criteria (HIC). The HIC is determined by dropping a special object onto the surface being tested, and then calculating the severity of impact force and associated risk of brain injury to the user. SofTILE has been engineered to provide an HIC rating below 570, which is also the threshold considered safe for children in an automobile crash. Since playground surfaces harden over time, this extremely

safe HIC rating ensures that the surface will remain compliant to the standard for the long term.

The fact that SofTILE is known for accident prevention and manufactured exclusively with recycled materials made the product an obvious choice for the Pathways playground.

Of the project, Jenny Greensmith, Executive Director at Pathways, said, "Pathways was very pleased to receive the support of Ontario Tire Stewardship through the use of tire derived products. These products contribute to a safe and accessible playground, which is an important part of the development of play, social and mobility skills for all children who attend the C.A.C.H.E. integrated childcare program."

Haily Chafe, a child who attends Pathways, said "I like playing on it [the playground] because it doesn't hurt when I fall down."



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In addition to the myriad of benefits that this playground provides to the children who frequent Pathways, a recent survey by Ontario Tire Stewardship (OTS) shows that 96 per cent of Ontarians agree that local municipalities should incorporate sustainable products into community spaces, such as parks, recreational centers and sporting arenas.

Through Ontario Tire Stewardship's community grant program, Pathways received a grant to help offset the cost of the SofSURFACES product.

Jeromy Morningstar, Managing Director at SofSURFACES said, "We were fortunate to be involved in Pathways Health Centre's expansion. We provided a firm, stable, slip resistant playground surface that is safe and fully accessible to those using wheelchairs and other mobile assisting devices. SofSURFACES is proud to be able to provide a surface that facilitates inclusive play for children of all abilities."

Ontario Tire Stewardship was thrilled that SofSURFACES was asked to be a part of the project, and to support such an important community-based centre for children. "Not only is the centre getting a high performance playground," explained Andrew Horsman, OTS's Executive Director, "but by selecting a manufacturer that is registered with OTS, Pathways can be confident that the product was made here in the province from Ontario scrap tires, providing both a positive economic and environmental impact."

About SofSURFACES

SofSURFACES has been engaged in the design and manufacture of playground surfacing systems for the past 20 years. They are currently the largest producer of safety tiles in North America. SofSURFACES distributes their products nationally through a network of qualified distributors.

SofTILE has been engineered with a unique hollow core impact pedestal built into the underside of the tile system. The functionality of the system revolves around the mechanical design of the impact pedestal which creates a buckling and recoil action upon impact. The unique underside design absorbs significantly more energy during a fall which reduces the likelihood of brain trauma. The hollow core impact pedestal design is also more resistant to factors that negatively affect safety performance such as aging, temperature extremes and contamination with sand and dirt.

Content Keywords: Ontario, Community Centre, CSA Standards, Accessibility, Educational Facility, Playground, Recycled Content, Regional Material.



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WHY RECYCLED TIRES

SofSURFACES is an OTS-registered recycled product manufacturer that uses up to 93 percent recycled tire content in their products. The SofTILE playground flooring at Pathways used the equivalent to 231 recycled passenger tires.



ABOUT OTS

Ontario Tire Stewardship (OTS) is a not-for-profit organization responsible for ensuring the 10 million scrap tires generated annually get recycled, right here in the province.

Since 2009, we've diverted more than 50 million tires from landfills or from getting burned. We work with leading Ontario companies to put used tires to

work in your community and your home. They get made into landscape tiles, doormats, speed bumps, roofing shakes, garden mulch and a variety of useful and eco-friendly products made right here. Plus, we've helped bring more than \$40 million in investments and hundreds of jobs to the province. It's amazing how something we used to just throw away can benefit Ontarians' quality of life in so many ways.

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