



GREEN PURCHASING CASE STUDIES: RETREADED TIRES HIT THE PAVEMENT

CITY OF PORTLAND, BUREAU OF PURCHASES

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CityFleet uses retreaded tires on heavy-duty trucks and heavy equipment.

PURCHASING GREEN

When tires become worn, new tread can be bonded to the tire casing using a process similar to that of manufacturing new tires. CityFleet has used these retreaded tires for its heavy-duty trucks and heavy equipment, about 25

percent of its fleet, since 1992. In a typical year, the city uses 300-400 retreaded tires.

BENEFITS

A retreaded tire takes only seven gallons of oil to make, compared to 22 gallons of oil needed to make a new tire. Using retreaded tires also prevents waste by diverting scrap tires from being stockpiled or disposed of in landfills. Stockpiled tires are a potential fire hazard and a common breeding ground for disease-carrying mosquitoes. According to the Oregon Department of Environmental Quality, Oregon generates about five million used tires, or 50,000 tons, every year. About 1.5 million of these tires originate from the Portland area.

A typical tire can be retreaded up to seven times. When tires can no longer be retreaded, CityFleet sends them to a private company that shreds them into a compound used for athletic tracks and other recycled rubber products.

COST

Retreaded tires cost 30 to 50 percent less than their traditional counterparts. As long as the tire casing is in good condition, it can be reused over and over again, saving money by eliminating

AT A GLANCE

WHO

CityFleet

WHAT

Retreaded tires

COST

💰 Cost 30%-50% less than new tires

BENEFITS

- ✓ Uses reclaimed/recycled materials
- ✓ Saves oil
- ✓ Reduces waste
- ✓ Product is recyclable

the need for disposal. Consequently, CityFleet has experienced significant cost savings by purchasing retreaded tires instead of new tires.

PERFORMANCE

CityFleet reports that retreaded tires perform just as well as regular tires – they can be driven at the same speeds and deliver similar mileage. Retreaded tires are also just as safe as new tires. The U.S. Department of Transportation reports that the most common cause of tire-related accidents – regardless of whether the tires are new or retreaded – is poor tire maintenance. Retreaded tires are commonly used nationwide on school buses, fire trucks, and ambulances and account for about 80 percent of all aircraft tires in service in the United States.

“Retreaded tires for heavy-duty truck and heavy equipment have been a very good product for the city. The cost is significantly less than that of a new tire, and the old tire casing can be reused rather than disposed of.”

Don Taylor
Assistant Manager, CityFleet

LESSONS LEARNED

CityFleet has had a positive experience with both the cost and performance of retreaded tires. Whether new or retreaded, it's important to keep tires well maintained, including ensuring the tires are properly inflated and avoiding excessive loading.

ABOUT CITYFLEET

CityFleet's six repair facilities maintain Portland's 2,850 vehicles and equipment. This includes parking patrol vehicles, sedans, pick-ups, vans, police sedans, dump trucks, back hoes, and heavy construction equipment. They perform oil, lube, and filter changes; emission inspections; and engine, transmission, drive train, electrical, suspension, heating, cooling, and air conditioning diagnoses and repairs. CityFleet garages are also certified [Eco-Biz Automotive Shops](#), a designation that recognizes their commitment to minimizing their environmental impacts.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

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