

More Rubber Sidewalks Being Used In New York

The sidewalk installed last month in front of F. Franklin Moon Library at the State University College of Environmental Science and Forestry in Syracuse, NY consumed rubber from more than 200 recycled vehicle tires.

The sidewalk material, called Flexi-Pave, is formed from a mixture of tire-derived crumb rubber, small stones and liquid binder. Recycled rubber makes up 50 percent of the mixture.

Flexi-Pave, developed by a Florida company, is gaining acceptance as a niche product in Central New York, according to the local authorized installer, James Ross & Son Contractors Inc.

Over the past two years, the company has installed Flexi-Pave sidewalks at the Liverpool Public Library, Onondaga Community College, Turning Stone Casino, Elmcrest Children's Center and other locations, the *Syracuse Post-Standard* reported.

More than 6,000 tires were recycled for these pavements, the company said.

The environmental benefit of recycling tires was one of factors that led college officials to choose the material over asphalt or concrete, but a more pressing concern was to find

a porous material that would allow water and melted snow to run through, they said.

Because Flexi-Pave lets water through, the college was able to install heating coils beneath the sidewalk, avoiding the need for salt, sand or snow shoveling during the winter. Students won't track salt into the newly renovated library, officials said.

Because the sidewalk helps shed water from heavy rains, it will help eliminate a stormwater run-off problem and protect the newly refurbished library at the same time, a spokesman for the college said.

According to the installer, Flexi-Pave costs about \$7 to \$12 per square foot, depending on the installation - more expensive than asphalt but comparable to concrete or brick paving stones. The finished product has a speckled appearance, the color of which can vary. Manufacturer K.B. Industries Inc., of Clearwater, Fla., can provide the rubber dyed in a variety of colors, and for a springier but less durable pavement, Flexi-Pave can be installed without stones, the company said.

About 40 shredded tires go into every 100 square feet of Flexi-Pave sidewalk. ♦

Source: *The Post-Standard*.

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