

RUBBER

AN ENVIRONMENTAL-FRIENDLY AND RENEWABLE RESOURCE

The rubber tree

- Is a species of the tropical rainforest.
- Is cultivated to supply the raw material for more than 40 000 industrial and consumer rubber products, so important for everyday life.
- Rubber trees cover almost 10 million hectares worldwide.
- Play an important role in the environmental health of the world.

Rubber trees - a renewable resource par excellence.

1. Atmospheric Air Renewal

- Studies show that over its life cycle, one hectare of rubber trees can remove 318 tonnes of carbon dioxide, and replacing it with oxygen over their lifecycle.
- This process of photosynthesis, in revitalizing the earth's atmosphere, helps combat greenhouse gas emissions and global warming.

2. Renewable and Sustainable Resource

- About 450 trees are planted per hectare. At the end of each lifecycle of 30 years, the area is replanted. The rubber tree of the *Hevea Brasiliensis* species, is the most efficient source of rubber latex. Backed by more than 75 years of scientific research in Malaysia, the sustainability of this valuable resource is assured.

3. Biodegradability of Natural Rubber

- Natural rubber and its products biodegrade through a natural biological process
- Incineration of rubber products does not result in harmful gas emissions
- Tests by the RRIM show that latex gloves disposed in landfill break down after 2 weeks with a weight loss of 75% without harmful substances being generated to impair the environment.

Unlike synthetic rubber, latex gloves and products made of natural rubber are truly environmentally friendly.