

CLAIMS:

1. A method of recycling tires comprising the steps of:
 - placing tires and/or pieces of tires within a casing or mold;
 - 5 • applying a binder to the tires and/or pieces of tires so that the tires are bound together;
 - applying a reinforcing means to the tires and/or pieces of tires;
 - melting or pouring an encapsulating means over the top of the tires and the reinforcing means to encapsulate them inside the casing or mold and the
 - 10 encapsulating means; and
 - causing or allowing the encapsulating means to set such that a recycled product is formed.
2. A method according to claim 1, wherein the encapsulating means is heated to a
- 15 temperature which is sufficiently high enough to soften and melt the encapsulating means such that it becomes moldable so that it is spread to cover and encapsulate the tires and the reinforcing means.
3. A method according to claim 1 or 2, wherein the encapsulating means is plastic.
- 20 4. A method according to claim 1, wherein the encapsulating means is a liquid adhesive.
5. A method according to any one of the preceding claims, wherein the binder is an
- 25 adhesive or adhesives.
6. A method according to any one of claims 1-4, wherein the binder is metal pins, screws, nails, nuts and bolts, wire and/or steel or nylon bands in combination with an adhesive or adhesives.
- 30 7. A method according to any one of the preceding claims, wherein waste materials are placed within the casing or mold before an adhesive is added and when the adhesive is applied it binds the tires and waste materials together.

8. A method according to claim 7, wherein the waste material comprises:
- plastic;
 - electronic components and circuit boards;
 - batteries;
- 5 • pieces of metal and machine components;
- glass and light bulbs;
 - asbestos, fibrous cement and/or concrete; and/or
 - fabrics.
- 10 9. A method according to any one of the preceding claims, wherein the tires or pieces of tires are arranged in a generally concentric arrangement.
10. A method according to any one of the preceding claims, wherein the reinforcing means is metal rods, metal pins and/or metal wire.
- 15 11. A method according to any one of the preceding claims, wherein the reinforcing means are arranged in a grid like a pattern and are configured such that they are placed on top of or surround the tires and/or pieces of tires.
- 20 12. A method according to any one of the preceding claims, wherein the casing:
- has a base and four side walls connected to the base;
 - has a leach proof lining;
 - is leach proof;
 - blocks or resists UV; and/or
- 25 • is fire resistant.
13. A recycled product created according to the method of any one of the preceding claims.
- 30 14. A building component having:
- a casing;
 - tires and/or pieces of tires housed within the casing wherein the tires are bound together by a binder;
 - a reinforcing means; and

- an encapsulating means which encapsulates the tires and/or pieces of tires and the reinforcing means within the casing.

5 **15.** A building component according to claim 14, wherein the component also has waste materials housed within the casing which are bound together and bound to the tires and/or pieces of tires.

16. A building component according to claim 14, wherein the waste material comprises:

- plastic;
- 10 • electronic components and circuit boards;
- batteries;
- pieces of metal and machine components;
- glass and light bulbs;
- asbestos, fibrous cement and/or concrete; and/or
- 15 • fabrics.

17. A building component according to claim 14, 15 or 16, wherein the encapsulating means is plastic.

20 **18.** A building component according to claim 14, 15 or 16, wherein the encapsulating means is a liquid adhesive.

19. A building component according to any one of claims 14-18, wherein the binder is an adhesive or adhesives.

25 **20.** A building component according to any one of claims 14-19, wherein the binder is metal pins, screws, nails, nuts and bolts, wire and steel or nylon bands in combination with an adhesive or adhesives.

30 **21.** A building component according to any one of claims 14-20, wherein the tires or pieces of tires are arranged in a generally concentric arrangement.

22. A building component according to any one of claims 14-21, wherein the reinforcing means are metal pins and/or metal rods.

23. A building component according to any one of claims 14-22, wherein the reinforcing means are arranged in a grid like pattern and are configured such that they are on top of or surround the tires and/or pieces of tires.

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24. A building component according to any one of claims 14-23, wherein the casing:

- comprises a base and four side walls connected to the base;
- has a leach proof lining;
- is leach proof;
- blocks or resists UV; and/or
- is fire resistant.

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