



## WHAT IS RUBBER?

Rubber is a polymer derived from the sap of natural plants. It is most commonly produced from the sap of the rubber tree (*Hevea brasiliensis*) or from the sap of other plants. Rubber is used in many industrial areas due to its flexibility, durability and high strength.

## HOW IS RUBBER PRODUCED?

Rubber is a naturally occurring substance found in the sap of plants and requires a specific process to obtain. It is usually produced by collecting sap from rubber trees and other plants.

## BASIC STEPS OF RUBBER PRODUCTION:

- **COLLECTING THE SAP:** The sap is drained from the bark of the rubber tree. The collected sap is collected in collection containers.
- **COAGULATINON:** The collected sap is coagulated by adding coagulation agents such as acid or heat. This process allows the liquid rubber to become solid.
- **WASHING AND DRYING:** Excess water and chemicals remaining on the coagulated rubber are washed off. Then the rubber is dried by natural or artificial methods.
- **PROCESSING:** The dried rubber is cut to desired shape and size. This may pressing, pouring or other processing methods.

