

RETHINK RECYCLING

Recycling Tips and Myths

Here are a few of the common questions and comments we hear from residents. We have provided some suggestions to help you to recycle more!

I recycle my cans, bottles and newspapers, what else is there to recycle?

Recycling programs have changed over the years. Some new items have been added that you may not be aware of, including:

- Mail, office and school papers
- Shredded paper in closed paper bags
- Magazines and catalogs
- Phone books
- Cereal boxes, cracker boxes, pasta boxes and cake mix boxes
- Shoe boxes, gift boxes and electronics boxes
- Boxes from toothpaste, medications and other toiletries

Contact your community recycling program for information on how to sort these materials for recycling.

I'd recycle more, but not all my recycling can fit in one bin.

Extra containers and carts are available by calling your community recycling program. If you do not have a cart with wheels, you could also use a laundry basket, pail, or box for extra recyclables. Make sure you label the extra container as recycling.

I have trouble carrying the recycling container to the curb.

If you do not have a cart with wheels, try using a wagon, wheel barrow or luggage cart, or ask a neighbor or family member to help.

I always forget what day is recycling day.

No problem! You can wait until your next recycling day or take your materials to your nearest recycling drop-off center. Check with your community recycling program, as some offer collection schedules, e-mail reminders or provide stickers to mark your calendar.

I don't have room in my house for collecting more recyclables.

If you don't have room to store your recyclable paper out of sight, consider placing a decorative basket near where you read your mail or pay your bills.

I don't recycle my mail and other papers because I'm concerned about protecting my identity.

Mail and other papers are no safer in the trash. If you shred your paper, you can still recycle it. Place it in a closed paper bag and label it "shredded paper."

Recycling is too much work.

Actually, recycling is easier than it used to be. You don't have to remove labels on cans or bottles. Plus, a lot more material is now recyclable, including envelopes with windows, magazines, and even those glossy inserts that come with the newspaper. Another good tip is to place a recycling container next to your garbage can to make recycling convenient.

Recycling Myths Unmasked

There are no markets for recyclables.

Demand for recycled materials has never been greater. In fact, demand exceeds the supply currently provided by the American public. We're using more paper than ever, and paper mills need recycled paper to produce new products. Paper is also a valuable export.

I don't generate enough recycling to make a difference.

You may be surprised, even in a single person household the amount of material that could have been recycled can quickly add up. About 1/3 of what is thrown away could be recycled.

Recycling doesn't make that big of an environmental difference.

Recycling doesn't just save natural resources, it also saves energy and reduces greenhouse gas emissions. Plus, it's great for our economy. Minnesotans recycle over 2.3 million tons each year. By recycling, Minnesotans:

- **Save Natural Resources**
Recycling 1 ton of paper saves 7,000 gallons of water
- **Reduce Greenhouse Gases**
Recycling in Minnesota reduces emissions equal to taking 2.3 million cars off the road
- **Create Jobs**
Over 19,000 Minnesota jobs are involved with recycling
- **Reduce Our Taxes**
Each year, recycling generates \$64 million in Minnesota tax revenue

Why recycle? It just gets thrown away anyway.

It is against state law for haulers to pick up recyclables and not recycle them. It is also against the law for a landfill or resource recovery facility to accept a load of recyclables. Recyclables are in demand. Cities and haulers receive revenue from the sale of recyclables.