

RETHINK RECYCLING

Top Ten Recycling Facts

1. About 21 percent of Minnesota's household garbage is recyclable paper. Don't forget to recycle your mail, office and school paper, magazines and catalogs, cardboard and other boxes, like cereal boxes, shoe boxes and toothpaste boxes.
2. 186,400 tons of recyclable paper is thrown away each year by residents in the Twin Cities metro area.
3. Twin Cities metro area residents recycle almost 1 million pounds of paper every single day.
4. Recycled paper supplies more than 37% of the raw materials used to make new paper products in the U.S. There is an ever growing demand, so every bit counts.
5. Recycling paper doesn't just save trees! Production of recycled paper uses 80 percent less water, 65 percent less energy and produces 95 percent less air pollution than paper production using raw materials.
6. The average American household receives more than 500 pieces of advertising mail each year. Be sure to recycle your unwanted mail, including glossy and colored papers. You can also recycle envelopes with windows.
7. Some people don't recycle their mail because they are concerned about protecting their identity. However, 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."
8. Trying to figure out which boxes from the kitchen can be recycled can be confusing. A quick tip: if the product can be stored in the cupboard it's recyclable. If it goes in the fridge, freezer or microwave it shouldn't be recycled.
9. A newspaper is recycled and back in circulation in less than four weeks. Don't forget that you can recycle the inserts along with the newspaper!
10. Recycled cardboard is used to make new boxes, cereal boxes and other paper packaging. It can even be used to make paper backing for shingles. It's a bit more work to break those boxes down to fit in the bin, but it's worth it.