



Recycling in the Twin Cities

1) TV & Computer Recycling: **TV and computer monitors contain 2-8lbs of lead and don't belong in the trash.** As of July 1, 2005 State law bans disposal of CRT (cathode ray tube) found in TV and computer monitors. Recycling is available. Visit www.GreenGuardian.com. The city of Minneapolis accepts these items on **Recycling Day**. The city of St. Paul does not.

2) Cell phones have hazardous components. Do Not Throw in the trash.

- *Best Buy provides drop boxes in their entryways. They also take inkjet cartridges & rechargeable batteries
- *Call2Recycle program at www.call2recycle.org Visit the website for drop off locations. Here are a few: Office Depot, Radio Shack and Target.
- *Some manufacturers take back used phones: Kyocera, Motorola & Nokia.

3) Computer cartridges:

- *The post office has a free and easy to use system. They have plastic envelopes that are preaddressed with prepaid postage. All you have to do is slip the cartridge in the bag and drop it in the mailbox.
- *Some schools collect them for fund raisers.
- *Office Max will exchange one ream of recycled paper for each Dell, HP or Lexmark cartridge you bring in.

4) Major Appliances: If you have an air conditioner, dehumidifier, dishwasher, dryer, freezer, garbage disposal, microwave, refrigerator, stove, trash compactor or washer, and you live in the city of Minneapolis, they will pick it up on **Recycling Day**. Label it Recycling or Please Take. If you have questions call 612-673-2917. St. Paul has a fee for drop-off or pickup.

5) Household Hazardous waste: Paint, pesticide, insecticides, weed killer, fluorescent bulbs and other hazardous waste are not collected by the garbage man. *Residents of Hennepin County* can bring household hazardous wastes to the citizen drop off centers in Brooklyn Park & Bloomington free of charge. Call 612-348-6500 for more details. In St. Paul, take liquid paint to a county household hazardous waste collection site. Call 651-633-EASY for more

information.

Other County Collection Sites:

Anoka Co. 763-323-5730 www.AnokaCounty.us/recycle

Carver Co. 952-361-1800 www.co.carver.mn.us/EnviroServices/enviro_main.asp

Dakota Co. 952-891-7020 www.co.dakota.mn.us/environ

Ramsey Co. 651-633-3279 www.ramsey.co.mn.us/ph/eh/haz_waste.asp

Washington 651-430-6655 www.co.washington.mn.us

6) Tires: In Hennepin County, you can bring up to eight tires to the South Transfer Station, at no additional charge. You will need a voucher. Call 612-673-2917 for a voucher. St. Paul does not collect tires. They suggest taking auto tires to any tire store for recycling. There will be a small fee.

If you live in Hennepin County, go to www.hennepin.us enter the keyword A-Z; they have an “A to Z How to get rid of it Guide” that lists everything from hearing aids to scrap metal.

7) Give it Away

If you have a usable item that you’d like to put in the hands of someone who may want it, try the Twin Cities Free Market. www.twincitiesfreemarket.org It is a “listing service for residents who want to give or get free goods for the home garage and garden”.



Recycling...What the numbers mean.

Do you have a hard time remembering what those numbers that are imprinted on your plastic recyclables mean? I could never recall which could be recycled and which couldn't. Then our local newspaper, The Minneapolis Star Tribune, ran an article about the numbers. This is what I learned:

1 Yes, it's recyclable. I'll spare you all the technical details. Suffice to say that this is the plastic contained in soda, water and vinegar bottles. They are later processed into fiber for clothing and carpet.

2 Yes. These are containers for detergent, bleach, milk, shampoo and hair conditioner. They are reincarnated as bulletproof vests and toys.

3 No. Pipes, shower curtains, meat wraps and cooking oil bottles are not recyclable.

4 Yes. Grocery bags are recycled by Cub, Byerly's, Lunds, Wal-Mart and Kohls.

5 Yes. Tupperware, syrup bottles, yogurt tubs, and outdoor carpet. These can be recycled but are not picked up at the curb.

6 No. Coffee cups, disposable cutlery and cups, bakery shells, meat trays, foam insulation and most packing peanuts. Some packaging stores accept and reuse your packing materials.

7 No. These products are labeled "other."

Reusing and Recycling go hand in hand. Here are a few ways to reuse:

- Renting
- Repairing
- Do it Yourself
- Shopping used first
- Donating
- Consignment
- Sharing
- Using libraries
- Garage sales