

## Keep it Loose – Tales from Tim’s Recycling Bin

It’s becoming fall when it gets colder, and we start bundling up. That’s a good thing for you and me, but not for your recycling. Bundling your bottles, cans, and papers in a bag makes it harder and sometimes impossible for them to be sorted. And if they can’t be sorted, they’ll be trashed.

Sometimes plastic bags of unwanted items end up in the recycling cart. Workers at the sorting facility are trained to throw plastic bags in the trash unopened. Clear or opaque – trash they make.



When paper bags get compacted on the truck the recycling gets trapped inside. Material is moving along the conveyor belt at the sorting facility too fast to allow workers to empty the paper bags. Bottles and cans inside a bag are quite likely going to end up at the paper mill. Machinery at the paper mill sorts those bottles and cans into the trash pile.

If you collect recycling in your home in bags, please pour the contents out into your cart. Reuse the bags. Or you can drop the paper bags on top. Plastic bags go in your trash.

Until next time, keep it loose my friends.