

Paper Recycling - Tales from Tim's Recycling Bin

I bet you didn't know that when there was that big run on toilet paper right before the Stay at Home order it had an impact on the recycling world. For most of us after our recycling cart is emptied, we stop thinking about the stuff we put in it. That's why it may be a surprise to learn that milk cartons and juice boxes along with shredded paper get turned into toilet paper and facial tissues.

Milk cartons, juice boxes and shredded mail are high quality paper, but their fibers are too short to make new sheet paper. However, short fibers are great for making soft items such as toilet paper and tissues.

And that brings me back to the great toilet paper shortage. Recyclers couldn't provide enough cartons and shreds to meet the tissue mills' demand. Especially since the amount of shredded paper from businesses plummeted.

So, keep putting those milk cartons, broth containers and juice boxes in your recycling cart. We prefer you shred paper at a public event such as the Special Materials Drop-Off Day coming up on October 10. That paper goes right to the tissue mill. Shredded paper in your cart is too small to effectively collect. If you need to use your cart, put the shredded paper in a paper bag, staple or tape it shut, and write "Shredded Paper" on the outside.

Until next time my friends help manufacturers by getting them what they need – your recycling.

