

Tales from Tim's Recycling Bin – Bring on the Bags

COVID has changed our recycling practices in numerous ways. But one thing that hasn't changed – manufacturers continue to need your recyclables. You might not have guessed that there's still a demand for plastic bags since many grocery stores paused their take back programs in March.



Shopping, bread, water softener and other plastic bags typically get turned into plastic lumber. Trex, one of the country's largest manufacturers of plastic lumber, has been saying for months that it still needs your bags. And now that new information shows that it's okay for stores to accept bags as long as they follow safety procedures, we're seeing more stores re-institute their drop offs. As always you can drop off plastic bags at the Hennepin County Drop-Off Facility at 8100 Jefferson Highway.

Never put loose plastic bags in your recycling cart. They get tangled around the machinery at the sorting facility and ultimately end up in the trash. Also never put your recycling in plastic bags. Those bags get thrown in the trash unopened. We don't want to risk injuring a worker if they opened a bag that may contain, shall we say, unsavory material.

I would be remiss if I didn't remind you that it's better to reduce than to recycle. So whenever possible use a reusable shopping bag. Until next time, reduce your bag use and recycle the rest my friends.