

To Cart or Not To Cart

Many things in this world can be recycled. By recycled I mean taking material that has reached the end of its current use and utilizing it to make new products. More than a thousand Minnesota companies use your unwanted material. In the process they generate about \$13 billion in economic activity each year.

Here's one example. Tires we collect at the Special Materials Drop-Off Day go to Liberty Tire in Savage. Liberty Tire processes them into crumb rubber which is sold to manufacturers and turned into lots of products such as welcome mats. Tires can also be used for rubberized asphalt for road projects.



While used tires are readily recyclable, we can't take them in your curbside cart. The curbside program is designed to take a variety of common household items that don't contaminate other recyclables and are easy to separate from each other at the sorting facility. So put plastic bottles in your cart, but take plastic bags (which are hard to separate) to the grocery store.

At my house the wife and kids will ask me what to do when they're not sure how to dispose of a particular item. Since you don't have me hanging around your house eating all the bananas and hogging the recliner, what should you do? We have a few quick ways you can find information on the best ways to dispose of things:

- Give us a call. During business hours we'll take your calls about what can go in the bin and what needs to go elsewhere. We can also get you a new or bigger cart. So call us at 763-493-8120. After hours just leave us a message and we'll get right back to you.
- Browse through the "Recycling and Materials Management Guide." We have printed Guides you can pick up at City Hall with information on how to dispose of everything from aerosol cans to yard waste. You can also give us a call and we'll mail a copy to you.
- Look it up on the internet. Hennepin County just updated their Green Disposal Guide. Go to <http://www.hennepin.us/green-disposal-guide> and type in your item. Up pops a range of disposal options including locations, if there are fees, and any preparation instructions.

Remember when you're shopping for something new, check to make sure the product contains recycled material. That way you keep the recycling loop rolling and you may be pumping money back into the Minnesota economy.