



CVWMA

Monthly Waste Reduction News

July 2002

The Plight of the Plastic Bag

Why are plastic bags not accepted in the curbside recycling program or at drop-off locations? While # 1 and # 2 narrow-necked plastic containers (like milk jugs, shampoo bottles, beverage bottles, etc.) are recyclable in the CVWMA's recycling programs, other kinds of plastics and plastic shopping bags like those from the supermarkets are not accepted.

The kind of plastic used in the bags is different from the kind used in narrow-necked #1 and #2 containers. Plastic bags are not recyclable in CVWMA programs, and shouldn't be used to tie up recyclable items.

Even more important, the plastic bags can damage the equipment used to sort recyclables, causing costly repairs. This affects the economic viability of the entire program.

Plastic bags are also notorious for blowing out of recycling bins and trash cans. These bags then end up in any number of places, including rivers, streams and wetlands where they pose a hazard to wildlife. So please, leave those plastic bags...any kind...out of the recycling bin and drop-off centers.

Plastic bags can be recycled at most local supermarkets, and are also great to reuse as lunch bags or to carry and store a variety of things. For ideas for reusing plastic bags in craft projects, check out www.bagbed.com. These folks have used plastic bags to create beds for the homeless, pet beds, tote bags and more!

If offered a choice of bags at your supermarket, choose paper instead of plastic. Paper is made from

a renewable resource (trees), unlike plastic which is made from petroleum, a non-renewable resource.

Even better, bring your own paper, plastic or canvas bag from home to reuse. Some supermarkets offer credits to customers who return and reuse bags. Brown paper bags are recyclable in recycling programs through the CVWMA or most supermarkets.

As always, check our website at www.cvwma.com for more information on ways to reduce, reuse and recycle.

CVWMA Calendar

September 14

"Eycling" electronics collection

September through November

Continued expansion of Chesterfield County's curbside program

October

New drop-off recycling program

November 15

America Recycles Day

December

2003 Curbside Collection Calendars mailed

Central Virginia Waste Management Authority
2100 W Laburnum Ave, Suite 105, Richmond, Virginia 23227
Recycling Hotline: (804) 340-0900
Trash Collection Hotline: (804) 425-0500
Website: www.cvwma.com

Central Virginia Waste Management Authority (CVWMA) is a public service authority that implements solid waste management and recycling programs for 13 local governments.