

NO BAGGED RECYCLABLES IN THE RECYCLE BIN!



PLASTIC BAGS CAUSE MAJOR PROBLEMS FOR MRFS

Bags cause machinery to malfunction and create unsafe conditions for our workers!

Plastic bags and film are one of the biggest problems MRFs deal with. They get wrapped around machinery causing multiple delays and shutdowns. They pose major safety concerns for our workers because they physically climb into the machines to cut and remove jammed/clogged bags and film. Since there's no telling what's inside an enclosed bag sorters need to protect their health and safety, and therefore do not open any plastic bags.

Bags contaminate other recyclables, reduce the value of other recyclables, and turn recyclable material into trash!

Plastic bags are lightweight making them a challenge to sort. They often end up in the paper line, contaminating the paper and making it difficult to be further processed. Contamination reduces the quality and value of all recyclables and can make entire batches unsuitable for recycling. RAA only accepts materials we know can be recycled and used to make new products.

Bags have limited market demand and processing requires expensive equipment!

Plastic bags are not an acceptable material in the City's curbside program because they increase residual rates, require millions of dollars of equipment, and long-term operation and maintenance costs. The lack of demand and low value discourages facilities from investing. Acceptance of this material encourages the single use of plastic bags when reusable, sustainable solutions are available. As a zero waste organization, we encourage reduction and reuse of plastics before recycling.

PLASTIC BAGS ARE ACCEPTED AT RECYCLE ANN ARBOR'S DROP-OFF STATION OR AT PARTICIPATING RETAIL STORES. TAKE THE ZERO WASTE APPROACH AND SWITCH TO REUSABLE BAGS!

