

RECYCLING PROGRAM UPDATE

There have been a few changes in our on-campus recycling program that I would like to make everyone aware of.

The recycling center where our campus materials are taken to has requested that we do not put recyclables in garbage bags before they are placed in the recycling totes. The reason for this is when the materials are being sorted, the workers cannot see what is in the bags and there have been injuries in the past when workers open the bags and encounter sharp objects or hazardous materials hidden inside the bags. To help prevent worker injuries, they are asking all of their customers to not use bags, but to simply leave the cans and bottles in the CONTAINER totes loose.

Shredded paper is the only material that should be placed in a tied clear bag to help prevent litter problems on campus when the MIXED PAPER tote is emptied.

Also, loose plastic bags and plastic packaging materials should not be placed in the CONTAINER or MIXED PAPER totes. Due to the light weight, these items have become a litter issue. Please place these items in your solid waste dumpster.

Items that are acceptable in the CONTAINER tote include: Steel cans, Aluminum cans, Plastics #1 thru #4 (#1 and #2 only in the City of Lakeland program), and Glass bottles. Cans should be lightly rinsed and placed loosely in the recycling tote. Caps can be placed back on bottles and jugs. Labels can be left on containers.

Items that are acceptable in the MIXED PAPER tote include: Newspaper, Office paper, Shredded paper (placed in a clear tied bag), Magazines, Junk mail, and Classroom paper. Staples, paperclips, and rubber bands are fine.

Please let me know if there are any issues with the recycling services for your campus. If you do not currently have a program, why not start one today? Just send me an email and I will help you get started.

Have a great day,
Scott

Scott Reeves **Waste and Recycling Specialist**

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The Choices We Make Today Will Limit Or Expand The Opportunities For Our Future Generations.

REDUCE what you use, **REUSE** what you can, and **RECYCLE** the rest.

Visit us on the web at: <http://www.polk-fl.net/community/greeninitiatives/default.htm>