

## **CITY DESIGNATED REFUSE BAGS ("Blue Bags")**

### **WHY DO WE HAVE TO USE BLUE BAGS?**

Since 1993, State law has directed that garbage disposal pricing in the State of Minnesota be based on either weight or volume. Billing by weight proved to be an unfeasible method for many reasons for the City of Virginia. Our only alternative was to bill by volume; thus the City of Virginia, along with other Range cities throughout the state, designed a bag system.

To ensure compliance with the bag system, the City then created an ordinance requiring all RESIDENTIAL customers to use a "Blue Bag".

The City has a Blight Officer who inspects dumpsters to insure compliance with this ordinance.

### **HOW DOES THE BAG SYSTEM WORK?**

Simplistically, the bag system has two parts; the first part is a flat fee for residential garbage charged by both the City and County. This is shown on your utility bill. This charge covers the cost of pick up and hauling garbage.

The other part is the "flexible" cost for blue bags. While the bags are sold at a set price, it lets a household determine how many blue bags they are going to use each month. For example, a single person generates a lot less garbage than a family of six does, therefore, the single person most likely will spend less in blue bags and in turn will pay a smaller amount for garbage each month by not using as many blue bags.

### **WHERE DO I BUY THE BAGS?**

You may purchase the "Blue Bags" at most grocery and hardware stores in the Virginia area.

They are available in three convenient sizes—8, 13, and 30 gallons.

## **WHY SHOULD WE RECYCLE?**

1. State Policy is to cut back our reliance on landfills by reducing the amount of trash we make. Recycling is the best way to do this.
2. Recycling helps protect our environment. Less garbage means fewer landfills and reduce the need to create new ones.
3. Recycling is one of the easiest ways to reduce the amount of garbage you place in a Blue Bag.

### **FOR MORE INFORMATION:**

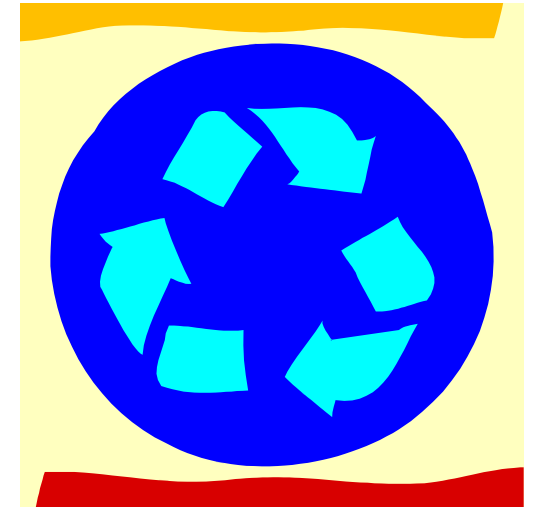
**City of Virginia Public Works**  
(218) 748-7515

**St. Louis County Solid Waste**  
(218) 749-9703

Updated April 2005

## **CITY OF VIRGINIA**

### **Curbside Recycling Program**



**City of Virginia  
Public Works Department  
(218) 748-7515**

**Engineering Department  
(218) 748-7500**

# VIRGINIA RECYCLING PROGRAM

Recycling is a way of life in Virginia, Minnesota!

Conveniently located **RECYCLING CONTAINERS** (near the City Garage) and a **CURBSIDE RECYCLING PROGRAM** will ensure that everyone in Virginia has the opportunity to recycle.

Recycling in Virginia plays an important role in decreasing the amount of garbage headed for our landfills and the amount of garbage that you have to put in a blue bag.



## DO NOT PLACE RECYCLABLES IN ALLEYS!

Put recyclable materials in paper grocery bags and place the bags on the curb in **FRONT** of your residence by 7:00 a.m. on your designated day.

Recyclables can be placed in cardboard boxes, laundry baskets, paper bags, or plastic recycling bins, if available.

**ALL RECYCLABLE MATERIALS MUST BE SEPERATED** i.e. Metal Cans, Glass, Plastic, Paper (including cereal boxes) and Cardboard must be in separate containers/bags.

### \*\*PLEASE NOTE\*\*

### THERE WILL BE NO RECYCLING OR GARBAGE PICKED UP ON THE FOLLOWING HOLIDAYS:

|               |               |
|---------------|---------------|
| New Years Day | 4th of July   |
| Memorial Day  | Labor Day     |
| Thanksgiving  | Christmas Day |

# HOW TO SORT YOUR RECYCLABLES

## NEWSPAPERS AND PAPERS

- Put in a paper grocery bag
- Newspapers including inserts
- Magazines up to 1/2 inch thick
- Junk Mail
- Paperboard (cereal/beverage boxes)



## GLASS

- Put in a paper grocery bag
- Brown, Green and Clear Glass
- Bottles and Jars Only
- Rinse clean. Remove all caps and metal rings
- NO need to remove labels
- NO window glass, light bulbs, or mirrors
- NO dishes or drinking glasses



## METAL AND ALUMINIUM CANS

- Put in a paper grocery bag
- Save all beverage and vegetable cans
- Recycle aluminum and bi-steel
- Rinse clean. Remove caps and metal rings
- No need to sort by type or remove labels



## PLASTIC

- Put in a paper grocery bag
- No need to remove labels
- Rinse clean and throw away caps
- Bottles and jugs—**necked** containers only (#1 and #2 plastics ONLY)



## CARDBOARD

- Flatten and bundle
- Cut to 2' x 2' squares
- Corrugated (shipping type) cardboard ONLY



## THESE ITEMS CANNOT BE RECYCLED:

- Paper plates, paper towels or napkins
- Window Glass
- Light Bulbs
- Dishes and Drinking Glasses
- Waxed Cardboard
- Product Packages
- Oil Containers
- Paint Cans
- Plastic Bags
- Pails
- Toys
- Hose/Pipe
- Adhesives
- Containers that held Hazardous Waste