

**Please Contact Our Office for Further Information
530-541-5105**

Don't Trash It... BLUE BAG IT!

South Lake Tahoe residents can help us recycle by participating in our new curbside Blue Bag Recycling program. Curbside Blue Bag recycling is easy. Recycle with a Blue Bag and South Tahoe Refuse staff will leave a new Blue Bag in its place. Residents can recycle every week in unlimited quantities.

Blue Bags are convenient and save space at home as all the recyclables can go into one bag. Once they are filled, Blue Bags should be **tied** and placed at curbside, preferably in a can or enclosure, the morning of pickup. Blue Bags can go directly into dumpsters at apartment complexes. Blue Bags are sorted separately at our Material Recovery Facility.

For Nevada customers with on-call service, place blue bags out on the mornings you have called in for a pickup. This is a free service provided in conjunction with your trash service. Please do not place blue bags out on other mornings as the drivers will not have a tag to stop at your house.

About the Blue Bags:

The Blue Bags are large and strong, with enough room for a mix of the materials listed below. Fill your Blue Bags, but don't over stuff them. Blue Bags should weigh less than 50 lbs. Tie Blue Bags; this keeps recyclables clean and separate from the trash which is collected in the same truck. The Blue Bags for this recycling program are being provided at no cost to customers, thanks to our local agencies. To avoid confusion, please use other color bags for trash and green waste. A new green waste program is in the works for 2010. Watch for more information on that program.

We will be keeping track of the number of Blue Bags collected and the increased recycling to gauge the success of the program. Watch for other compatible programs throughout our community in 2013 as we move forward with our goals to increase recovery of our valuable resources and reduce materials going to the landfill.

Blue Bag Acceptable Materials:

- Mixed Paper: office paper, magazines, catalogues, junk mail and gift wrap. Virtually all types of mixed paper can be recycled, avoid paper contaminated with food or other waste.
- Paper Board: fiber food and beverage containers, i.e., cereal boxes and tissue boxes.
- Cardboard: cut to fit into the blue bag. Drop off large quantities at the South Tahoe Refuse Transfer Station.
- Aluminum, tin and bi-metal cans and clean foil.
- Glass Bottles and Jars: all colors, mixed.
- Plastics Number 1-7: water, soda, juice, milk jugs, product and food bottles and containers, plastic bags.
- Rigid Plastic: all types of plastic products, i.e., toys and chairs, must be free of metal and fit into the blue bags.

Exception: Styrofoam is not currently recycled through this program.

Why Blue Bags?:

Curbside Blue Bag recycling, which allows a mix of recyclables in one bag, significantly increases the recovery of recyclable materials in a cost effective manner. Blue Bag programs increase recycling by an average of 2 to 4 %. Blue Bag recycling allows South Tahoe Refuse to collect all residential trash and recycling using one route per household. This minimizes vehicle emissions and eliminates the cost of additional "recycling" trucks and separation bins. Blue Bag recycling works for both single family and multi-family residences. When families recycle at home, it becomes a life-long practice and, combined with new school and public facilities recycling programs, contributes to our goals for sustainable communities. As the Blue Bag recycling program is implemented, the Material Recovery Facility will continue to recycle from the commercial and construction waste streams. Although recycling markets are still fluctuating, the Blue Bag recycling program is moving forward, another step in our commitment to recycling programs throughout our communities.