



RAVEN REPORT

January 2014

Topless Bottles

Yes, surprisingly topless bottles are better for us. We still recycle the tops but if they are left on and go through our baler then the pressures involved can cause the bales to rupture. Carbonated drinks generate a lot of pressure inside their bottles and so the lids need to be tight fitting to prevent the drinks from going flat. This makes it difficult to crush a bottle with the top on. You can try it yourself at home. Also, #1 plastic has a lot of "memory", it will easily return to a bottle shape which can result in bottles spontaneously regaining their shape and jumping out of bales. Something that's better than coffee for waking you up if you're walking by at the time. Not only are they problems but also the lids are made from a different type of plastic, so we would prefer not to have them mixed with our #1 bottles. We can't do much about the memory issue but we can take lids off when we see them. Of course this does take us more

time when dealing with refundables, so if you remember to do it then we'll have less queues in the depot. Thanks for your help.

Any old clothes?

Henry Mayhew reported in 1851 that between 800 and 1,000 rag and bone men lived in London. They would collect old rags amongst other things and sell them to be recycled into new textiles. There aren't so many around these days but Whitehorse has a modern equivalent in Raven's depot workers. No, they don't take bones but we like to take rags. Any old worn out, stained, ripped, chewed, mangled, moth-eaten, faded or ravaged clothing, bedding, towels or any other textiles can be given to the depot workers for recycling. Good quality clean clothing, towels, etc can still be left in the free store for reuse. As a rule of thumb, if you wouldn't want to wear it because it's so worn then no one else will. All textiles for recycling are baled up here and shipped south to be turned into new textiles.

It's cold outside, come and recycle!

Raven doesn't close when it's cold. If you are one of our Papersave customers for paper or cardboard then you will see that pickups are halted when we're below -35. The constant starting and stopping in those temperatures are too hard on our vehicles. Even when it's -40 or colder the bottle depot stays open

DID YOU KNOW?

Rinsing out containers can be annoying but there are good reasons for doing it. Liquids can pour unexpectedly when containers are being sorted causing problems for our staff. Food residues can rot and cause unpleasant odours as well as creating a health hazard for the people who have to work with them. Dirty containers can also interfere with the recycling process by contaminating the plastic, metal or whatever the container is made of. Materials like paint on an aluminium can will be burnt off when the metal is melted but rotting food waste is another kettle of fish. Speaking of fish kettles, just imagine the state a dirty one will be in after sitting around in our yard for a few weeks in summer. Yes, I should have warned you not to read that last sentence during lunch, oh well. Plastics are particularly at risk from contamination and you would be surprised at some of the contamination we see.

during regular hours. If you're one of those people who has to be out and about on chilly days then you can still bring your recycling here. If the temperature should drop to Absolute Zero then we might consider an early close, watch for signs if we get to around -270C.



RAVEN RECYCLING
Your Community Recycling Center

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