

# Recycling Shredded Paper

## Frequently asked questions



**How should I recycle shredded paper in my Single Stream Recycling Container?**  
Please bag shredded paper before recycling. Shredded paper is the only product that will be accepted in a plastic bag. All other recyclables must be loose and unbagged when they are placed in curbside recycling containers.

### **Why do I need to bag shredded paper?**

Bagging your shredded paper helps prevent the wind from scattering the paper during service. Another benefit of bagging shredded paper is, the single stream recycling that the City collects is taken to a larger sorting facility, where the products are separated and shipped to market. Shredded paper is so small that it falls through the cracks during the sorting process and ends up in the dirt and debris. The shredded paper pieces then have to be removed and taken to the landfill.

### **Is shredded paper harder to recycle?**

Shredding paper decreases the value of the paper fiber and reduces the number of times paper can be recycled. When not shredded, an average paper fiber can be recycled 7-12 times, while shredded paper can be recycled significantly fewer times.

### **Is there an alternative to shredding all of my documents?**

Consider only shredding paper when necessary. Only shred the portion of the document that includes sensitive information and recycle the larger leftover pieces.