



Residential Bulky Rigids Case Study – Shakopee, MN (and surrounding areas)

FACILITY: Dem-Con Materials Recovery Facility, Shakopee, MN, services customers from MN, WI, IA and parts of Canada

TONS PROCESSED PER YEAR: 60,000 TO 70,000

WEBSITE: www.dem-con.com

YEAR OPENED: 2013

TYPE OF RECYCLING FACILITY: Single stream recycling processor, Dem-Con is the owner and operator

Materials Accepted

- Cardboard
- Catalogs and magazines
- Boxboard
- Mixed paper
- Telephone books
- Cartons
- Plastics #1 - #7
- Aluminum
- Steel and tin cans
- Household metals
- Glass
- Bulky Rigid Plastics (toys, yard furniture, and plastic bins)

BULKY RIGIDS COLLECTION: 2013

- The facility has always accepted bulky rigid plastics and the original design was built with an additional pre-sort bunker
- Bulky Rigids are manually separated at the beginning of the MRF process
- Accept children's toys, yard furniture, and plastic bins

REASONS FOR ACCEPTING:

- Dem-con saw that there were multiple viable end-markets for the material and they thought it made sense to include in the processed stream
- By diversifying the stream it makes the MRF more marketable to a greater number of customers. It can also help drive increased tonnage

EDUCATION AND OUTREACH:

Dem-con encourages all customers to include Bulky Rigid Plastics in their single stream mix. They also have a Recycling Education Center with a classroom, interactive exhibits, and a 'sort it out' station that allows visitors to handle the different materials accepted for recycling at the facility.

PLASTIC RECOVERY VOLUMES:

TOTAL TONS RECYCLED (ALL MATERIALS): 60,000 to 70,000 annually

TOTAL TONS OF RIGID PLASTICS RECYCLED: Dem-con could not report on the specific number of Bulky Rigid Plastic tons recycled. Staff did report that the overall impact on tonnage has been very small.

CHALLENGES:

No major issues.

LESSONS LEARNED:

- Adding the material is not a challenge. There are no major issues in adding the material as long as you process it up-front and do not let the bulky rigid plastics get into the automated system.
- Large Bulky Plastic Rigid Plastics (i.e. kiddie pools) may require special handling to break down and process and you should be prepared for these items.

EXAMPLE OF EDUCATIONAL RESOURCES:





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