Residential Bulky Rigs 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](http://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 Rigid Collection:** 2013
- The facility has always accepted bulky rigid plastics and the original design was built with an additional pre-sort bunker
- Bulky Rigs 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 it 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:**

![Educational Resource Image](plasticsrecycling.org)
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