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For Immediate Release

“Add Recycling to the Recipe --Steel Can Recycling”



You may not realize it, but you probably use at least one steel can every day. The familiar "tin" can has been part of our society for more than a century. Steel cans package a variety of products, including fruits, vegetables, soups, sauces, meats, condiments, juice, pet food, cleaning products, paint, shoe polish, adhesive bandages, coffee. We rely on steel cans for packaging our food in durable, tamper-resistant, shelf-stable containers. We reach for them on cold winter evenings when we need a cup of soup. We empty their contents into dog and cat food dishes for our pets. We even polish our furniture and paint our homes with even cookies. Steel cans are also something else -- recyclable. As recently as 2007, Americans recycled steel cans at a rate of 67%. “Can it!”

How do you prepare steel cans for recycling? Basically, all you have to do is empty them. Place the lids inside the cans and recycle. You don't have to remove the labels. A light rinse to remove any food residue and you are ready to go! Several other suggestions:

- Place a large garbage bag in your garage, shed or other out-of-the-way place outside your home. To recycle steel cans, you'll place them in this bag as they are emptied. Rinse out common steel cans that contained food products. Rinse the lid off and place it inside the can. You may mash the cans if you want, to save space. Then, place them into the garbage bag to recycle.
- Toss all other emptied steel cans into the garbage bag to recycle them. Find out if a can is made of steel by placing a magnet against it. If the magnet sticks, the can is steel. Be careful when you're handling sharp lids and steel cans when you recycle them. Place the sack of steel cans in a blue recycling dumpster at various locations around the Village of Ruidoso.

In the Village of Ruidoso, collected steel cans are transported to the material recovery facility (MRF) at the Greentree Transfer Station and Recycling Center. At the 'MRF', the steel cans are magnetically separated from the other recyclables, crushed into large cubes called bales, then shipped to a steel mill in El Paso for recycling. The steel cans are then combined with other steel scrap and melted in a furnace to make new steel for new steel products.

For more information on steel can recycling, contact the Greentree Solid Waste Authority office at **378-4697**; toll free at **1-877-548-8772** or via email at **gswa@greentreeswa.org**. General solid waste disposal and recycling information is available at **www.greentreeswa.org**.

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