

Gift-wrap...The nightmare after Christmas

by Christine Miller

Avid recyclers know that gift wrap and tissue paper are not accepted in our local recycling program, but might not know the reasons why.

Local paper mills recycle the paper we sell them and ask us not to accept gift wrap for the following reasons:

- Many gift wraps are made from aluminum foil and film plastic. These wraps are usually very shiny and durable and may not be easily distinguishable from paper wrapping.
- During gift opening, people often throw ribbons, bows, garbage and tissue paper together, usually inside a large plastic bag. All items mentioned, including the plastic bag, cause BIG problems for the paper mills as the mills want only paper.
- Tissue paper is NOT recyclable because the fibers in tissue paper are weak. Strong paper fibers are needed in order to recycle paper.

If you and your family are willing to inspect and separate 100% paper wrapping from all the ribbons, bows, garbage, tissue paper and plastic bags, then you can certainly recycle your gift wrap.

For questions on recycling email chris.miller@outagamie.org or call Christine at (920) 968-5721.



Example of gift wrap made from foil...