



**R**ecycling  
**A**ssociation of  
**M**aricopa

*A division of Environmental Concerns Organization, Inc., a 501(c)(3) non-profit corporation*

## **Scrap Metal and Appliance Recycling Facts**

It is **illegal** to place the following in the garbage: washers, dryers, hot water heaters, garbage disposals, trash compactors, ranges, stoves, air conditioners, heat pumps, refrigerators or freezers, furnaces, microwave ovens, dehumidifiers, dishwashers. Many of the switches found in appliances contain Mercury. Some appliances contain CFCs, Freon, Gas, Ammonia, or other types of refrigerant. Still others may contain PCBs. All of these appliances have potentially hazardous substances that can cause health and environmental problems if not properly recovered prior to disposal.

### **Benefits of Recycling Scrap Steel:**

- ❖ **Divert Material from Disposal:** Keeping scrap metal out of the waste stream saves valuable landfill space.
- ❖ **Conserve Natural Resources:** Every ton of scrap metal recycled saves 2,500 pounds of iron ore, 1,400 pounds of coal, and 120 pounds of limestone.<sup>1</sup>
- ❖ **Save Energy:** Each year, scrap metal recycling saves the energy equivalent to electrically powering about one-fifth of the households in the United States (or about 18 million homes) for one year.<sup>2</sup>

<sup>1,2</sup> Steel Recycling Institute [www.recycle-steel.org/fact/main.html](http://www.recycle-steel.org/fact/main.html)

### **Facts & Figures:**

- Each new steel product is made in part from post-consumer recycled scrap metal. So each time you buy a steel product, you're closing the recycling loop by buying recycled.
- About 630 steel cans are recycled every second.
- Steel cans are used to package more than 1,500 different kinds of food - everything from apples to zucchini. Steel cans are also used for paints and aerosol sprays, bandages, and shoe polish. Even oil filters are a form of a steel can.
- Steel cans contain 25% recycled content.
- The average refrigerator contains 100 pounds of steel.
- Steel's magnetic attraction makes it one of the easiest materials to recycle.

- Recycling just one car saves 2,500 pounds of iron ore, 1,400 pounds of coal, and 120 pounds of limestone.
- Because of their steel and iron content virtually every car taken off the road today is recycled
- It takes about 45 seconds to shred the average automobile into fist-sized pieces of steel for recycling.
- The automobile is the most recycled consumer product in the world today.
- The steel found in just six cars, when recycled, is enough to build a brand new house, using steel framing.
- Using recycled steel to make new steel saves energy. In fact, the steel industry saves enough energy in one year to electrically power 18 million homes for one year.
- It takes an entire tree to make a typical wood pole; one scrapped car produces more than four steel poles.
- Steel is one of the few materials you can purchase that is guaranteed to be recycled, and it can be recycled repeatedly without loss of quality or strength.

# **All Steel is Recyclable !**