

HELP RECYCLING THRIVE **DITCH THE FILTHY FIVE!**



PLASTIC BAGS



SHREDDED PAPER



**HANGERS
CORDS & HOSES**



**TAKEOUT
CONTAINERS & CUPS**



**DIRTY
DIAPERS**

FAIRFAX COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS AND ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES | SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT



The *Filthy Five* is a notorious gang committed to trashing recycling! Help Fairfax County foil the *Filthy Five's* plans by pitching them in the trash, or implement these alternative reuse and recycling strategies:

Plastic Bags – These get wound around recycling processing equipment and slow things down considerably! Reuse them to clean up after your dog or for cleaning the litter box. Otherwise, bring them to grocery stores along with all other plastic film, including shrink wrap, bubble wrap, deflated packaging pillows, bread bags, and other food storage bags. Plastic bags are recycled into new plastic bags or plastic lumber used to make benches and decks.

Shredded Paper – Paper is highly recyclable, but when it's in tiny pieces it cannot be processed through residential programs. Essentially, it flies, floats, and gets filthy in the process. Instead consider putting in your compost pile, make papier-mâché, or use it as animal bedding for your pet hamster or gerbil.

Hangers, Cords & Hoses – These items strangle and destroy recycling processing equipment and are often referred to as “tangles!” Take old hangers back to the dry cleaners or donate to second hand stores when feasible. Everything else – hoses, electrical cords, extension cords, and computer cords are just trash, so toss them out!

Takeout Containers & Cups – It would be nice if these items were recyclable, but wishing upon a star will not make it so! Recyclers are only sorting for plastic bottles and jugs, NOT takeout containers or foam of any kind! Reduce the use of these items by bringing your own takeout containers or making more of your meals at home.

Dirty Diapers – Yes, they are made from paper fiber, but they are contaminated, and therefore can NOT be recycled or reused, ever. Put these in the trash to protect those collecting and processing your recyclables!