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[www.eurekarecycling.org](http://www.eurekarecycling.org)

Reduce waste today through innovative resource management.  
Reach a waste-free tomorrow by demonstrating that waste is preventable not inevitable.

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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### **Pop and Beer Boxes No Longer Recyclable**

Saint Paul, MN—April 30, 2003—Starting in June, most pop and beer boxes will no longer be accepted in Saint Paul’s recycling program because of a coating that is added to the packaging. The coating, called “wet-strength,” helps boxboard containers stand up in damp conditions but causes problems when they are recycled. The companies that use our paper will no longer accept boxboard with a wet-strength coating.

Pop and beer boxes were accepted for many years because paper producers were able to tolerate a small amount of wet-strength. But more beverages packaged in wet-strength boxes are being sold, while at the same time beverage packagers are adding more wet-strength to boxes in response to concerns that they break down too easily during transport. Too much wet-strength makes it hard to crush paper pulp for remanufacturing, so paper mills have announced that they will no longer accept any wet-strength boxes. Saint Paul recyclers already know that boxes from their refrigerator or freezer, which contain the same wet-strength coating, are not accepted. Pop and beer boxes belong to this same group of nonrecyclable containers.

Common containers that are no longer accepted include 6-pack glass bottle carriers, 12-pack containers of cans and the new “fridge pack” pop containers. These boxes now have to be thrown away. However, pop and beer boxes that are made of corrugated cardboard can still be recycled. Corrugated cardboard boxes have a wavy inner layer and are sturdier than wet-strength paper. They are often used for 12-pack cases of glass bottles and should be put at the curb with cardboard for recycling as usual. Residents with questions can call the Eureka Recycling Hotline at (651) 222-SORT (7678) to talk to a recycling information specialist.

Eureka Recycling is a nonprofit organization, created by the Saint Paul Neighborhood Energy Consortium, that specializes in recycling and waste reduction and manages Saint Paul’s recycling program. Its mission is to reduce waste today through innovative resource management and to reach a waste-free tomorrow by demonstrating that waste is preventable not inevitable.

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