



All waste bins are speaking the same language thanks to a standardization project. Color and labeling prevent the costly mistake of mixing recyclables with trash. When this happens, the entire bin goes to the landfill, taking with it material that could have been sold or salvaged.

Madras Receiving driver **Ray Sanderson** places the banding he just removed from a lumber unit in a cardboard disposal bin. The Opportunity Center, a local nonprofit, will cut the discarded strands into recyclable junks using two choppers provided by Bright Wood's polyester strapping supplier.

Visually Managing the 3Rs with Color

Next time you walk by a waste or recycling bin, don't be surprised if it talks to you. Its color and labels will tell you exactly what material goes inside so you don't have to guess and Bright Wood doesn't haul resources to the dump that could have been reused, recycled, or even sold.

A lot of work went into making all 248 bins in Madras and Redmond say what they need to say. "An audit of every bin in the company was conducted to understand color, labeling, and current use," Chris Rhoads, Project Manager, said. "The data was used to understand waste/recycle types and the number of bins meeting the current standard, and then a corporate standard was developed."

The new corporate standard assigns a color to each bin type and specifies how bins are to be labeled. "We lacked standardization between the Madras and Redmond sites," Chris said. "What standards we did have were not followed over the years as new bins were purchased and existing bins were repainted and relabeled."

Three temporary hires along with John King, Madras Construction, spent a busy three weeks collecting, painting, and labeling the 127 bins that did not meet the new corporate standard. "In most cases the bins were the wrong color, damaged, or not identified with the correct labels," Steve Kenison, Construction Manager, said.

"We did this to make our Reduce-Reuse-Recycle (the 3Rs) Program visual and consistent throughout Bright Wood," Tony Bartelson, Operations Manager, said. "Redmond and Madras did not have the same colors and we found much material in bins that was commingled and hence not able to be recycled or reused; it simply became trash."

"We believe that if we have a visually-based system which is consistent throughout Bright Wood, it will be easier to maintain and manage this sustainability focus," Tony said.

REDUCE

BIN COLOR	CONTENTS
BLUE	WOOD FOR DISPOSAL (MATERIAL THAT CANNOT BE CHIPPED BECAUSE IT CONTAINS NAILS, ROCKS, BANDING MATERIALS, OR OTHER OBJECTS THAT WOULD DAMAGE THE CHIPPER'S KNIVES)
ORANGE	GARBAGE
WHITE	GLUE WASTE & PAINT SLUDGE
YELLOW	VINYL & URBAN WOOD (LVL, PLYWOOD, PARTICLEBOARD, MELAMINE, PHENOLIC PAPER, ETC.)

REUSE

BIN COLOR	CONTENTS
BLACK	RERIP & REGRADE
BROWN	BLOCK
GREEN	WOOD FOR CHIPPER

RECYCLE

BIN COLOR	CONTENTS
BEIGE	CARDBOARD
CARDBOARD TOTE	PLASTIC BANDING
RED	STEEL BANDING & RAYAR
SILVER	PREPARED & SCRAP STEEL
WHITE	PLASTIC (REDMOND ONLY)