

A.M.E.N.

American Military Encouragement Network appreciates all of the bottles and cans that have been donated. AMEN uses the funds to offset the rental cost of the warehouse and as of June this year we have returned enough to get over \$9,000 refunded. That is enough to cover 4 1/2 months of our rent, or about 17% over the past 26 months when the program started.

Now, the other news. BottleDrop Oregon has rules and penalties for violating those rules. It is possible that when enough infractions occur, **AMEN's account could be closed**. We'd like to pass on the things that they cannot tolerate and why.



- All bottles and cans **must have had a 10 cent deposit when purchased**, and have a **readable barcode**.
- **NO** foreign items, cottage cheese containers, jars, etc., can be in the blue bags.
- **NO** non-deposit bottles such as wine, gin, rum, tequila, no-deposit water bottles.
- **NO** bottles without labels having a barcode.
- **NO** milk cartons or jugs, mason jars, other glass of any kind.
- **NO** plastic bags, pasteboard six-pack carriers, paper sacks.
- **NO** crushed cans or crushed plastic bottles, must be able to roll past a scanner
- **NO** trash of any kind, drinking straws, paper, any item other than refundable bottles and can .

Each time there is something in a bag that is not a refundable item, it counts against AMEN and we have been warned of the number of violations we have, but unfortunately not what the cutoff is.

The blue bags are currently made from recycled plastic which isn't as strong as the bags when we first started. These bags have a **limit of 20 lbs**, which they watch and mark us for when overweight. The reason is that if they break and glass goes flying one of their employees might get cut. They tell us the easy way to judge the weight is if they can lift the bag with one hand.

And, finally, the bag ties on the current (recycled plastic) bags are quite weak and often pull loose easily. Please try to be careful when cinching the bag and it helps us to tie a loose knot. We sometimes need to retie the bags so things don't fall out or sometimes we add cans and bottles or even remove heavy items to bags that are lighter in order to maintain the 20 pound limit.

Again, **thank you very much** for those returnable items.

A.M.E.N.