

We must minimize litter caused by normal recovery system protective wadding used at the Santa Fe Dam

Normal use of protective wadding for model rocket recovery systems results in a lot of potential litter. The normal wadding sold by model rocket companies is either flame-proof toilet paper, flame-proof tissue paper or flame-proof crepe paper.

It protects the model rocket shock cord and parachute or streamer from the hot ejection gasses, but it is ejected from the model and it floats down to the ground. If there are enough models launched, it can look like someone dropped a Sunday newspaper from a helicopter. It can take days or weeks to 'bio-degrade'.

We eliminate the litter potential by using very little commercial wadding and mostly "cellulose insulation" material. The cellulose insulation material is made from shredded recycled cardboard and paper and it is treated with the same flame-proofing as normal model rocket wadding. Since it is shredded, it is dispersed like dust after ejection and does not litter the ground in the park.

Cellulose insulation is sold in huge bales at some Home Depot or Lowes stores.

SCRA has small packets for sale at our launches.

How to use Cellulose Insulation material as wadding:

You will still want some Estes or Quest wadding - or some flame-proof crepe paper. We install a small amount of regular wadding to prevent the cellulose wadding from falling out the bottom.

- 1) Do not install motor yet.
- 2) Take a small amount of regular wadding (Estes, Quest or crepe) that is a bit larger than the tube diameter. (For BT-20 this would be a quarter square of Estes or Quest.) Lay it flat on top of the body tube and then use a finger to insert it into the top of the tube and form a cup.
- 3) Insert fluffy cellulose to fill 2 to 3 body tube diameters in length.
- 4) DO NOT RAM-ROD!
- 5) Blow it down to the bottom of the rocket like a blow-gun. You will hear or feel a "THUNK" as it comes to rest against the top of the motor mount or thrust ring. This forms a "piston" that can freely slide, yet it prevents hot ejection gasses and flaming bits from passing by or through the wadding.
- 6) Install shock cord and recovery system and nose.