

## How To...Dispose of Stripped Matches

Some 95% of collectors *don't* routinely collect full-books. The reasoning is usually that 1) they're too bulky, 2) they require too much storage space, 3) they require special storing (normally not the usual pages and albums), and 4) it's just too dangerous having all those matches around. Whether the latter reason is right or wrong, that's the perception...and it's certainly the perception of...say...your home owner's insurance company! So, most collectors are just stripping those matches out of the covers as fast as they come in. But, what to do with *all* those matches?!

In 2008, we actually took a survey on this very item. The results were:

-Soak and throw in garbage w/wo bagging.....	48
-Bag and throw in garbage.....	21
-Throw loose in garbage.....	18
-Burn in:.....	11
Fireplace.....	4
Outside.....	6
Paper recycle bin.....	1

Well, most collectors reporting either soaked the covers and then threw them out or just burned them in the fireplace, outside fire barrel, etc. However, a significant number were simply throwing them into the garbage, dry. None of the later group reported any problems in doing so, but, boy, I wouldn't recommend that method. I've been a pipe smoker for 45 years, and, with all the full-books I always have around for lighting my pipe, I've never had a problem with a full-book igniting by itself. But, I *have* had stripped matches go off just by dumping a batch in a garage can. If you're not going to burn them, I'd definitely suggest that you soak them before throwing them out....or one day you may have a very angry garbage man at your door!