

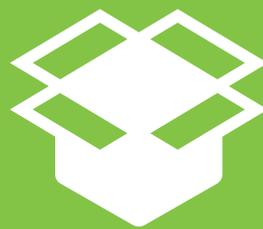


RECYCLE OFTEN.
RECYCLE RIGHT.™



Mixed Curbside Residential Recycling

MYTH BUSTERS



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#RORR

It's time to get back to the basics of good recycling.

The fact is that some recycling actions make a bigger impact than others. So please remember these three basic rules the next time you recycle:



Recycle all empty plastic bottles, cans, paper and cardboard.



Keep food and liquid out of your recycling.



Empty recyclables directly into your cart.
NO bagged recyclables.
Return plastic bags to a local grocer.

You'd be amazed by how big of an impact just following these simple rules can have!

But what about the other materials we encounter in our day to day lives? Use these recycling rules, expert tips, and mythbusters to be a recycling ambassador every day.

Identify the myths of recycling and become an expert.



MYTH: Most Americans recycle all they can

ANSWER: False

Research shows convenience and commitment are required for maximum recycling. For instance, is there more than one location in a household to store recyclables? If not, recyclables in areas other than the kitchen get thrown away. Additionally, is

there only one committed recycler in a household (usually the person who picks up after everyone)? If so, studies indicate making this a family/partner affair where everyone participates, allows the most recycling of the right materials.



MYTH: The recycling arrows (Mobius) on a container means it is recyclable at a Material Recovery Facility (MRF)

ANSWER: Only in some cases

Manufacturers strive to get eco-friendly information on their product labels. It sells. The FTC requires that a product have at least 60% access to local programs (like Material Recovery Facility processing) across the U.S. to include the Mobius on their products. However, the Mobius is not a reliable

indicator of whether something gets recycled. There are thousands of plastic products and packaging, and each one has its own unique chemical recipe. Many plastics cannot be made into new products at this time. Recycle plastics by shape: bottles, jars, jugs and tubs.



MYTH: Containers must be squeaky clean in order to be recycled

ANSWER: False

While all bottles, cans, and containers should be clean, dry, and free of most food waste before you place them in your recycling container – they don't need to be spotless. The goal is to make sure

they are clean enough to avoid contaminating other materials, like paper. Try using a spatula to scrape cans and jars, or using a small amount of water and shake to remove most residue.



MYTH: It doesn't matter if something belongs in the recycling cart, the hauler will sort everything anyway

ANSWER: False

There are increasing amounts of non-recyclables sent to Material Recovery Facilities, and every single one of them must be removed by hand by trained staff and/or mechanically sorted, or they end up contaminating high value recyclables. Non-recyclable garbage placed into recycling containers increases the cost of the recycling process and will increase the cost of garbage and recycling collection service.

Similarly, recyclable items placed into garbage containers are usually hauled to a landfill. Recyclables in a landfill cannot be recovered effectively. Even if further processing takes place, the full value is lost. The right thing to do is to put the all the right recyclables in the recycling container and non-recyclables into the garbage containers. Recyclables with the greatest impact are bottles, cans, and paper.



MYTH: Hoses, tanks, shower curtains, swing sets, etc. are made of plastic, so they must be recyclable.

ANSWER: False

If it's not "bottles, cans or paper" it probably doesn't belong in your curbside mixed recycling cart and may even require special handling. Just because an item is made from plastic, or contains plastic parts,

doesn't mean recycling facilities can handle it. There are other resources (e.g., Earth911.org) that can help answer questions about what to do with non-recyclables or household hazardous waste.



MYTH: All types of glass bottles and jars are recyclable.

ANSWER: Varies by jurisdiction

Glass recycling varies by jurisdiction. Glass collection varies widely in communities across the U.S. Some communities collect glass at drop off locations only, some collect glass separately at the curb or with other containers, and many include glass with all other recyclables. Bottle

bill laws in CA, CT, OR, IA, MI, ME, VT, MA, NY allow for the return of a per-bottle deposit when bottles are returned to return-centers or retailers for recycling. Please refer to your community's website for information on glass recycling in your local community.



MYTH: Aerosol cans are acceptable in the recycle bin.

ANSWER: Varies by jurisdiction

Most of recycling programs accept empty/dry aerosol cans. Aerosol cans without the caps are recyclable if they are empty/dry. If they are not, then they could be dangerous. Some fires are caused in baler chambers from trace amounts of can chemicals, and cans have been known to become projectiles when densified/baled if propellant is still present. WM facilities and

commodity vendors accept steel, mixed metal, and aluminum aerosol packages. Multi-material aerosol packages are not recyclable. There is no gray area here from a processor standpoint. However, some cities still list aerosols on their no-recycle lists. Check with your local municipality for further information.

Understanding basic recycling rules and tips.

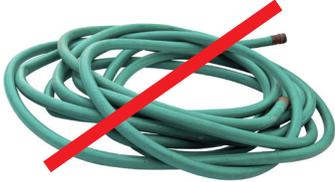
RECYCLE ALL BOTTLES, CANS, PAPER AND CARDBOARD

Item	Rule	Expert Tip
Plastic Bottles & Containers 	Recycle plastics like empty bottles, jars, jugs and tubs by their shapes. Chasing arrows don't necessarily indicate recyclability.	Caps are now recyclable, simply put them back on empty container before tossing in the bin.
Food & Beverage Cans 	Recycle all empty tin, aluminum and steel cans.	Empty aerosol cans can also be recycled. If the can has a plastic lid, you should remove it.
Paper 	Paper, newspaper and magazines are good to recycle.	Soiled and wet paper should be placed in the trash.
Flattened Cardboard & Paperboard 	Flatten and recycle all cardboard and paperboard.	Flatten cardboard to make room for more materials to fit in your recycling.

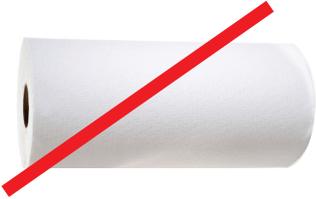
NO PLASTIC BAGS

Item	Rule	Expert Tip
<p>NO Bagged Recyclables</p> 	<p>Do not bag recyclables. They must be loose in the bin!</p>	<p>If you store your recyclables in a bag, simply dump them out when you get to your bin and re-use the bag!</p>
<p>NO Plastic Bags</p> 	<p>Plastic bags are included in a few curbside programs, check with your local program.</p>	<p>Do not bag recyclables. Plastic bags have a habit of getting tangled in equipment. Find where you can recycle them at plasticfilmrecycling.org.</p>
<p>NO Plastic Wraps & Film</p> 	<p>Plastic wrap, bubble wrap, plastic sandwich bags or freezer bags shouldn't go in the recycle bin.</p>	<p>Reuse whenever possible for presents, moving or storage of similar items.</p>
<p>NO Flexible Packaging</p> 	<p>Flexible packaging like chip bags and juice or soup pouches cannot be recycled in curbside programs.</p>	<p>This type of packaging is made from multiple materials preventing it from being recycled. It must be trashed.</p>

TRASH IT INSTEAD

Item	Rule	Expert Tip
<p>NO Garden Hoses, Rope, Leashes, Wire & String</p> 	<p>Garden hose, rope, leashes, wire and string should never go in the recycle bin.</p>	<p>These wrap around equipment and shut down entire recycling centers! Ensure they only go in the trash.</p>
<p>NO Dirty Diapers</p> 	<p>Dirty diapers' and pet waste's yuck factor increase when they end up where they shouldn't—the recycle bin!</p>	<p>These will soil all of the recyclables, turning the load to trash. Trash these instead and keep recyclables clean.</p>
<p>NO Cups with Plastic or Wax Coating</p> 	<p>Cups with plastic or waxed coatings are not recyclable.</p>	<p>The plastic lid should be trashed as well.</p>
<p>NO Polystyrene Foam & Plastic</p> 	<p>Polystyrene foam and plastic "to-go" containers and cups are made of unrecyclable materials, and cannot be collected curbside.</p>	<p>Packing peanuts aren't recyclable either, however some shipping stores will take peanuts back for re-use.</p>

KEEP ITEMS CLEAN AND DRY

Item	Rule	Expert Tip
<p>NO Food Waste</p> 	<p>Scrape out all cans and jars, empty liquids and put scraps in the compost.</p>	<p>Food scraps and liquids may seem harmless, but they could turn a whole load of recycling to trash.</p>
<p>NO Soiled Paper Towels</p> 	<p>Soiled paper towels, napkins and tissues are not recyclable</p>	<p>Compost the soiled stuff, and remember to recycle the paper towel cardboard tube.</p>
<p>Food & Beverage Containers</p> 	<p>Recycle empty milk cartons, juice boxes and food cartons.</p>	<p>Rinsing is no longer necessary, just empty and they are ready to go!</p>
<p>Pizza Boxes</p> 	<p>Cardboard pizza delivery boxes without leftovers, grease or liners should be recycled.</p>	<p>Tear off the soiled parts and recycle the rest.</p>

BEYOND THE CURB

Item	Rule	Expert Tip
<p>Glass Bottles & Jars</p> 	<p>Glass recycling rules vary by city, county and state.</p>	<p>Check for local recycling programs – there could be drop off locations, curbside pickup and comingled options.</p>
<p>NO Needles</p> 	<p>Medical waste doesn't belong in curbside recycling or waste!</p>	<p>Needles can cause serious injuries to workers, so dispose of them in a safe container like our MedWaste Tracker box, or contact your local service provider.</p>
<p>NO Scrap Metal, Auto Parts & Tires</p> 	<p>Metal waste (car parts, propane cylinders, lawn mowers and microwaves) cause damage and are safety hazards if put in curbside recycling or waste bins.</p>	<p>Check locally for special collection options or take them to a local retailer or scrap recycler for donation or proper recycling.</p>
<p>NO Large Household Items</p> 	<p>Commonly, household items such as clothing, textiles, shower curtains, swimming pools, and fencing don't belong in the recycle or waste bin.</p>	<p>Check local programs for local reuse and recycling options first, before putting them in your waste bin.</p>



Find more recycling resources like posters,
bin labels, videos and activities at
www.RecycleOftenRecycleRight.com
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