



#### **Recycling Right Means Quality Over Quantity**

You've heard it before - **Recycle Often. Recycle Right.**<sup>SM</sup> When it comes to recycling, each action can make a big difference for our environment. We need the right things ending up in the bin to keep the recycling process going.

Unfortunately, up to 65 percent of consumers place non-recyclables in their curbside recycling bins and dumpsters. One bad apple - as the saying goes - can spoil the bunch, reducing recycling values and contaminating otherwise good recyclables.

All types of plastic bags can shut down an entire recycling plant, and plastic stretch wrap, bubble wrap and other plastic films get tangled in the equipment; breaking or stopping machinery. Same goes for clothing, rubber hoses, shower curtains and strings of lights - all recycling offenders.

If it's not bottles, cans, paper or cardboard, it probably does not belong in your recycling container and may even require special handling. There are resources, like Earth911.org, that can help answer questions about what to do with non-recyclables or other special materials.

Remember, some recycling actions make a bigger impact than others. These are the rules to recycling right:



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.

By focusing on the most common recyclable products and following these basic rules, you can help us significantly impact the amount of good, recyclable materials entering our facilities.

Visit <u>www.RecycleOftenRecycleRight.com</u> to access valuable resources and tools to *Recycle Right* at home and at work. Make sure to visit us on Facebook and Twitter for additional recycling news and tips.

Join Waste Management and make the commitment to not only recycle often, but to make sure you are recycling right.





# 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.

By following these three simple rules, you can have a big impact on the sustainability of recycling.

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



## RECYCLE OFTEN. RECYCLE RIGHT.



### **RECYCLE OFTEN:**



Plastic Bottles, Jars & Jugs (narrow neck containers labeled #1 and #2)



Flattened Cardboard & Paperboard

## **RECYCLE RIGHT:**

Things you can do to ensure quality material is recycled:



NO Food Waste (Compost instead!)



NO Needles (Keep medical waste out of recycling. Place in safe disposal containers like Waste Management's MedWaste Tracker® box )



Food & Beverage Cans Steel, tin & aluminum soda, vegetable, fruit & tuna cans



Paper Brown paper bags, non confidential office paper, newspaper, magazines



**NO Plastic Bags & Film** (Find a recycling site at plasticfilmrecycling.org.)



NO Glass Bottles & Containers



NO Foam Cups & Containers

(Check Earth911.org for options.)





# Most Common Contaminants

Keep these common contaminants OUT of your recycling bin.



NO Recyclables in Plastic Bags

Empty loose recyclables in bin but leave the plastic bag out.



**NO Food & liquids** Compost instead! Otherwise, it belongs in the trash.



NO Electronics & Small Appliances

Donate if in good condition, or schedule a bulky item pickup, if available. Check **earth911.com** for a local drop off site.



#### NO Textiles, Bedding, Rugs & Carpet

Donate these items if they are in good condition. Large quantities may require special disposal.



#### NO Hoses, Holiday Lights, Hangers & Extension Cords

They wrap around equipment and can shut down an entire facility! They all go in the trash.



#### NO Plastic Bags, Film/ Sheeting & Flexible Film Packaging

Take plastic bags back to a local grocer to keep bags clean and dry, and prevent them from shutting down recycling facilities. Visit **plasticfilmrecycling.org** to find a drop off location near you.



NO Paper Napkins, Plates, Cups & Tissues

Compost if possible, and remember to recycle the cardboard tube.



#### NO Polystyrene Foam

Foam and plastic to-go containers are not recyclable curbside. Find drop off programs for items like foam packing peanuts at **earth911.com**.



#### NO Tires, Auto Parts & Scrap Metal (Including Propane Tanks)

(Not in recycling or trash) Can damage equipment & are safety hazards. Contact local scrap recyclers or retail tire stores for recycling options, or check **earth911.com** for a drop off center near you.



#### NO Concrete, Wood & Construction Debris

Can damage equipment & are safety hazards. You may be able to schedule a bulky item pickup - otherwise throw it in the trash or order a roll off bin by contacting Waste Management Customer Service.



NO Yard Waste & Wood

Compost or put in your yard waste cart, if available. Otherwise, it belongs in the trash.



NO Non-Recyclable Plastic

Not everything that is plastic is recyclable! Recycle only food & beverage bottles, jugs and tubs.