

Recycle It Right

Recycling is important because using materials we recycle to make new products saves energy compared to using resources that are extracted or mined from the earth. Sending our usable discards to be remanufactured reduces pollution by 30 – 95% (depending on material type) and creates jobs in the local and global economy.

Recycling the wrong material is more harmful than helpful. Putting incorrect items in the cart damages the whole system by causing equipment failure, contaminating good materials with garbage and reducing the value of commodities.

Top 4 Recycling NO-NOs

Cups & to-go food boxes



Coffee, soft drink cups, ALL cups, to-go boxes & more.

Paper intended to hold liquid or food contains either a chemical additive or plastic layer—both not recyclable. Plastics can't be properly sorted by sorting equipment & must be put in the trash.

Clear containers for deli, produce, bakery and other products

Often made of 2 laminated plastics, they are not recyclable.

Put them in the trash if you cannot find ways to reuse them at home.



Frozen food boxes

Frozen pizza boxes, microwave dinners, ice cream cartons & more.

This cardboard is infused with a plastic that can't be removed during the recycling process. Put them in the trash.



All plastic bags & other types of film

Plastic grocery, bread, dry-cleaning bags & more.

Stretchy plastics get tangled in the machines at recycling facilities causing problems. Return them to participating retailers (Safeway, Albertsons, etc.) or put them in the trash.



If in doubt, find out, or leave it out!

Is it recyclable? Ask Garbage Guru