

Regular Recyclable, Special-handling Recyclable, Recycle Contaminates and Unacceptable Waste Guidelines

Reduce. Reuse. Recycle. Anyone growing up in the 1970s, '80s or '90s learned the three Rs of recycling in school. We were taught to recycle everything we could. We added recycling containers to our homes, our offices and classrooms and recycling became a part of our culture. In the 40 years since recycling was introduced, Americans have recycled nearly 87 million tons per year. That means each of us recycles approximately 1.5 pounds per day! However, the recycling model we all grew up with is changing, and we have to change with it. Trying to recycle unclean or unrecyclable material increases sorting time and slows down the recycling process, damages the facility's equipment and causes contaminants in the bales of clean recyclables that decreases the value of the items. When this occurs, we have to put the ENTIRE load of recyclables into our landfills due to the contamination.

By practicing Empty. Clean. Dry. with our families, we can ensure the recycling materials leaving our homes are in fact recyclable. Together, we are caretakers of this blue planet - our home, and largely covered with blue waters that flow beneath blue skies. It is worthy of every effort we can make to protect it for our children's children.

EMPTY means making sure there is no food or product residue. Make sure all that goes into the trash or down the drain as part of the EMPTY process.

CLEAN means that empty recyclable containers should be rinsed. No mustard in the mustard containers, no ketchup in the ketchup bottles, etc. If you cannot get a container completely clean put it into the trash. Containers that are not clean contaminate the recycling material.

DRY means letting containers dry before placing them in your blue container so that the paper and cardboard does not get wet.

Republic Services will collect the following recyclable materials at no cost to customers;

Paper: full sheet office paper, newspaper, envelopes, junk mail, phone books, brochures, magazines, catalogs

Cardboard: file folders, poster board, shipping boxes (folded flat), frozen food boxes, cardboard boxes, milk cartons, the clean lid of a pizza box only

Plastic: number 2 or 4; water bottles, take-out containers, soda bottles, detergent containers

Metal: aluminum beverage cans, aluminum and steel food containers

Glass: bottles and jars (clear, green or brown)

The following items contaminate the entire recycled load materials and should not be placed in recycling bins;

Plastic bags or wrap (grocery bags contaminate recyclables), Shredded paper, Cellphones, Aerosol cans, Aluminum foil, Food waste, Mirrors, Ceramics, Paint, Pesticides, Medication, Styrofoam, Tissue, Paper towels, Napkins, The greasy bottom of a pizza box, Wet or soiled paper and cardboard, Diapers, Yard waste

Republic Services will charge an additional fee to collect the following special handling recyclable materials (not to be mixed with regular recycling);

Incandescent light bulbs, fluorescent tubes, computers & electronics, needles or syringes, hazardous waste, paint, yard waste, toxic material containers.

Republic Services does NOT accept;

hazardous materials, toxic substances, pollutants, contaminants, infectious wastes, medical wastes or radioactive waste. These type of wastes cannot be placed in recycle or waste containers.