



THE RECYCLING BIN'S DIRTY DOZEN



1 NO Plastic Bags

Plastic bags are the WORST contaminant in the recycling bin. When placed in a curbside bin, they get wet and dirty and cannot be recycled. Plastic bags with a #2 or #4 can be recycled at the CHARM (Center for Hard-to-Recycle Materials) if they are clean, dry and empty. They may also be recycled at participating grocery stores; find a list of participating stores.



2 NO Materials in Plastic Bags

Workers have to slow the conveyor belts to rip open bags that contain recyclables and then add the bag to the heap of bags bound for the landfill. These inefficiencies waste time and money.



3 NO Shredded Paper

Shredded paper is too small to sort. The pieces fall through the cracks of the sorting machines, stick to the belts and end up all over the floor. Please avoid shredding when possible because it destroys the potential for recycling. Compost shredded materials in your curbside compost bin (if you have one) or recycle at your local Recycling Drop-off Center.



4 NO Scrap Metal

Scrap metal items of any size should not go into your curbside bin. These items cause excessive damage to the recycling equipment.



5 NO Hazardous Waste

Hazardous waste such as paint, automotive fluids, car batteries and pesticides must be taken to your local Hazardous Waste Facility, not to the Recycling Center.



6 NO Diapers or Bio-Hazardous Waste

Syringes and needles, diapers and other sanitary products are not recyclable.