



RECYCLE OFTEN.  
RECYCLE RIGHT.™



# 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.



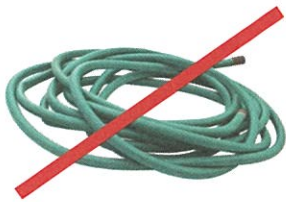
## NO Electronics & Small Appliances

Donate if in good condition, or schedule a bulky item pickup, if available. Check [earth911.com](http://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](http://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](http://earth911.com).



## NO Tires, Auto Parts & Scrap Metal

*(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](http://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 Medical Waste

(Find safe & secure disposal near you.)



## NO Non-Recyclable Plastic

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

For more information on recycling, visit [RecycleOftenRecycleRight.com](http://RecycleOftenRecycleRight.com)

or call 800-972-4545

Dear Valued Customer,

We are reaching out to you concerning some recent developments in the recycling industry, specifically related to material quality. China, which is the largest consumer of recovered material in the world, has decided to prohibit the import of several streams of recyclable materials and mandate a higher quality standard on others. Specifically, China has banned the import of mixed plastics and mixed paper and is dramatically decreasing the threshold of prohibitive material allowed on other grades. These global industry changes directly impact our business and yours. Our success at continuing to meet all recycling product specifications largely depends on the quality of the inbound material we receive from you. Just follow these 3 simple rules:

1. Recycle all empty bottles, cans, cardboard and paper.
2. Keep food and liquid out of recycling.
3. **Keep plastic bags, bagged recyclables, plastic film and medical waste out of recycling.**

## What do these changes mean to you?

- **Effective November 20, 2017** you may experience service disruption to your recycling service should there be bagged recyclables or other contaminants in your container. In this event, you will have a chance to remove the contaminants so we can come back and service you.
- If we find contamination in your recycling material after it arrives at one of our recycling facilities, you may be responsible for additional costs associated with the separation of and proper disposal of the trash and recycling materials.

## What can you do?

- Do not throw plastic liner bags filled with recyclables into your recycling containers. Empty the recycling contents into your container only, and throw the plastic liner bags into your trash.
- Check out our Most Common Contaminants List and educate everyone in your place of business on items that do not belong in single stream recycling containers.
- Visit [RORR.com](http://RORR.com) to see the wealth of recycling educational materials Waste Management makes available for you.
- Consider discontinuing the use of plastic liners in your recycling bins throughout your company.

Waste Management is committed to recycling. We have invested millions of dollars and continue to invest but need our customers' assistance to strengthen the recycling industry for a viable future. We appreciate your business, and are seeking to ensure the sustainability of our recycling efforts by eliminating contamination before it gets to any recycling facility. Thank you in advance for your assistance with improving the inbound quality of the material you collect, and we receive.

Should you have any questions regarding your recycling service, please feel free to call us at 1-800-972-4545.

Sincerely,

Chris DeSantis  
Area VP, New England & Upstate New York