

Don't Bag Your Recycling



Recyclable items hidden in a plastic bag will be removed from the recycling stream and diverted to a landfill.

Keep Your Recycling Viable



What's the Issue?

- Plastic bags and bagged recyclables contribute to contamination of recycled materials.
- Recycling is picked up from your home and taken to a facility to be sorted on a conveyor belt. The belt moves too fast, so all bagged items are removed.
- Bagged items that are removed are diverted to landfill or incineration, so those materials are lost from potential recycling.
- Municipalities get charged for the weight of recycling, then again for anything that needs to be transported to a landfill. This means the city, and you as a taxpayer, are getting double charged.
- Plastic bags that get through the stream can also cause problems by tangling in the gears of the sorting machine. Workers must stop the machines to untangle the gears manually, which is extremely dangerous.
- Plastic bags can be brought to special drop-off locations, often found at grocery stores, to be recycled safely.



Download the app today



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Wish-Cycling



Wish-cycling happens when someone hopes that an item can be recycled, when in fact the material is not accepted in their local recycling program.

3 Tips to Follow

1

Don't recycle items just because you hope they are recyclable.

2

Check the "What Goes Where" search tool on the Recycle Coach app.

3

Be aware of specialty recycling items that may require drop-offs to stores or depots.

What's the Issue?

- If the item is simply not recyclable, it will get diverted to the landfill or be incinerated. That extra trip from the recycling facility to the landfill costs extra.
- Across North America, municipalities pay hundreds of millions of dollars in extra sorting fees every year due to wish-cycling contamination. This increase in cost has put many recycling facilities at risk.
- When a dirty container or greasy paper is placed in the recycling receptacle with the hope that the recycling facility can clean it themselves, the food and liquid residue can contaminate otherwise clean and recyclable items and the recycling facility will lose those otherwise viable materials.
- Adding items to your recycling that don't belong can sometimes put workers at risk when those materials are hazardous or if they get tangled in the machines.
- Not every facility accepts every material that could be recycled. People may hope that a material is accepted in their area, see the recycling loop on the package and add it in when their program might not actually accept that specific material yet.



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