



**Due to global changes in the recycling industry, Waste Management is asking your community to help combat recycling contamination.**

**You will experience some changes in your curbside recycling collection program. For programs to be successful, all participants must make an effort to change recycling habits.**

**Please see below of a list of frequently asked questions regarding these changes.**

### **What are the key changes in our residential recycling program?**

In order to keep viable recycling programs, we must stop contamination at the curb. You can help by following these new recycling rules:

- No plastic bags of any kind will be accepted. Please place material loose in your recycling bin or cart.
- Shredded paper is no longer accepted.
- Make sure you are only recycling plastic bottles, jugs and jars. Any other plastic shape must go in the trash.
- Glass runs hard on our machines and can jeopardize the quality of other good recyclables. In addition, glass has a very low value and minimal outlets when collected through single stream programs. Please keep glass out of your single stream recycling bins.

### **Why are these changes being made?**

The recycling industry can be heavily impacted by global changes. We saw significant changes in commodity value when China's economy slowed in growth, and in July of 2017, China notified the World Trade Organization of its intent to ban the import of certain scrap materials by end of 2017.

Along with a ban of 24 materials, China has also finalized its contamination standards in January of this year, limiting contamination for any material imported into the country to less than 0.5%. These regulations require all markets to continue focusing on quality, which starts with the material we accept at our facilities.

With contamination levels reaching 25-30% of curbside recycling materials, we must start eliminating this residue before it enters our facility. Contamination occurs when items that don't belong in your home's recycling bin are placed there. Once this residue ends up in recyclables, it has the potential to turn the entire load into trash and increase processing costs.

The focus to clean up contamination is incredibly important to the quality of recycling programs. If we want to find stable markets to send our material to, we must eliminate contamination.

### **When do these changes go into effect?**

We need residents to start changing their recycling habits immediately. Enforcement of curbside recycling programs will begin January 1, 2019.

### **Will there be penalties if I do not follow these changes?**

Yes. Beginning January 1, 2019, Waste Management will be spot checking containers at the curb. If a container is considered heavily contaminated, it will be left behind as trash.

### **Are these changes exclusive to my community?**

No. Communities across the country and locally are facing similar challenges due to the ongoing changes in the recycling industry.

### **How can I make sure I am recycling good, quality material?**

- The best material to recycle are plastic bottles, jugs and jars; aluminum and tin/metal cans; paper and cardboard. If an item is not listed – it should be thrown in the trash.
- Make sure material is placed loose inside your recycling cart or bin – no bagged items will be accepted.
- You can also visit [Earth911.com](http://Earth911.com) to see if there may be other local outlets for material that can no longer be recycled in curbside collection programs. **WHEN IN DOUBT – THROW IT OUT!**

### **Where can I go for additional resources?**

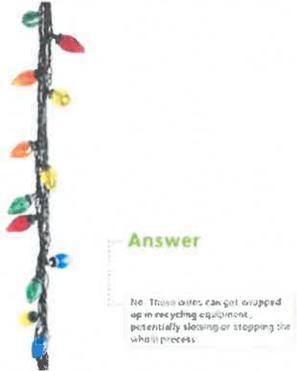
Please visit [www.RecycleOftenRecycleRight.com](http://www.RecycleOftenRecycleRight.com) for more information. If you are looking to dispose of an item that is no longer acceptable in your curbside collection program, please visit [www.Earth911.com](http://www.Earth911.com).

Graphic	Twitter/Instagram Post	Facebook Post
 <p><b>Answer</b></p> <p>Yes. Make sure it's empty and dry (and you can leave the lid on).</p>	<p>#Recycling101: Bleach jug okay to recycle? Learn the good and the bad via @WasteManagement: <a href="http://rorr.com">http://rorr.com</a></p>	<p>Can a bleach jug go in your single-stream recycling bin? You bet! Learn the good and the bad from Waste Management at <a href="http://www.RORR.com">www.RORR.com</a></p>
 <p><b>Answer</b></p> <p>Yes. Leave caps on your clear empty bottles. If it's not left on the bottle, it risks falling through the cracks.</p>	<p>#Recycling Quiz: Can bottle tops go in your recycling container? Learn via @WasteManagement <a href="http://rorr.com">http://rorr.com</a></p>	<p>Bottle caps – can you recycle them? Yes, but only if they are securely attached to the bottle they came on. Learn more at <a href="http://www.RORR.com">www.RORR.com</a></p>
 <p><b>Answer</b></p> <p>No. When it comes to curbside recycling, there is no real end market for this often hybrid material.</p>	<p>You deserve candy. Does the wrapper go curbside? Answers via @WasteManagement <a href="http://rorr.com">http://rorr.com</a> #Recycling101</p>	<p>Recovering from Halloween? Wondering if all those candy wrappers can be recycled? When it doubt – throw them out! Candy wrapper are not recyclable! Learn what can be recycled at <a href="http://www.RORR.com">www.RORR.com</a></p>

Graphic	Twitter/Instagram Post	Facebook Post
 <p><b>Answer</b></p> <p>No. While these can be recycled through take-back programs or by mail, they should not be placed in your curbside recycling container.</p>	<p>#Recycling101 Quiz: okay to put a cell phone in your curbside bin? More via @WasteManagement <a href="http://rorr.com">http://rorr.com</a></p>	<p>Still have your old flip phone? Can you put it into your recycling bin? Keep electronics out of your curbside recycling bin. Learn more at <a href="http://www.RORR.com">www.RORR.com</a></p>
 <p><b>Answer</b></p> <p>No. There is no real end market for this often hybrid material. So, keep it out of your curbside recycling container.</p>	<p>Can chip bags go in your curbside bin? Answer and more via @WasteManagement <a href="http://rorr.com">http://rorr.com</a> #Recycling101</p>	<p>Can chip bags go in your recycling bin? Learn what can go in your bin at <a href="http://www.RORR.com">www.RORR.com</a></p>
 <p><b>Answer</b></p> <p>No. When it comes to curbside recycling, hot paper cups have a plastic or waxed coating that does not break down.</p>	<p>Before you finish that coffee can it go in a recycling bin? Via @WasteManagement #Recycling101 <a href="http://rorr.com">http://rorr.com</a></p>	<p>Recycling Quiz: Can your coffee cup go into the recycling bin? Learn what material can be recycled at <a href="http://www.RORR.com">www.RORR.com</a></p>

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 <p><b>Answer</b></p> <p>No. When it comes to curbside recycling, please keep these items out of your recycling bin. Check earth911.com for other options.</p>	<p>#Recycling101 from @WasteManagement: Polystyrene foam okay to put in your #recycling bin. <a href="http://rorr.com">http://rorr.com</a></p>	<p>Can Polystyrene foam go in your curbside recycling bin? It cannot, but think about ways you can avoid using this material all together.</p>
 <p><b>Answer</b></p> <p>No. When it comes to curbside recycling, put empty recyclables into your cart. Plastic bags can get caught in equipment, potentially breaking or stopping machinery.</p>	<p>#Recycling101: Okay to put garbage bags in your recycling bin? Answers via @WasteManagement <a href="http://rorr.com">http://rorr.com</a></p>	<p>Do you bag your recyclables? That's a big NO. Garbage bags, and any other bags, are not acceptable for curbside recycling. Place your material loose into your bin or cart.</p>
 <p><b>Answer</b></p> <p>Yes. Make sure they are clean and dry. Thanks for recycling.</p>	<p>#Recycling101: "Can-do" or "Can-not" in your recycling bin? Answers via @WasteManagement: <a href="http://rorr.com">http://rorr.com</a></p>	<p>CAN your aluminum cans go in the recycling bin? YES THEY CAN!</p>

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 <p><b>Answer</b></p> <p>No. Please do not put in your curbside recycling container. Check your location for other options.</p>	<p>#Recycling101 Quiz: Can a paint can go in your curbside bin? More via @WasteManagement: <a href="http://rorr.com">http://rorr.com</a></p>	<p>Looking to get rid of some paint cans? Wondering if they can go in the recycling bin? Unfortunately, they cannot. Learn proper disposal for this material at <a href="http://Earth911.com">Earth911.com</a></p>
 <p><b>Answer</b></p> <p>No. For curbside program, paper cups have a plastic or waxed coating that does not break down.</p>	<p>#Recycling101 Quiz: Can paper cups go in your curbside bin? Yes/No. Learn via @WasteManagement <a href="http://rorr.com">http://rorr.com</a></p>	<p>Leftover paper cups from a party? Thinking about throwing them in your recycling bin? Unfortunately, they do not belong there. Visit <a href="http://www.RORR.com">www.RORR.com</a> for a list of items that do belong in your recycling bin.</p>
 <p><b>Answer</b></p> <p>No. When it comes to curbside recycling, plastic stretch wrap, bubble wrap, and other plastic films can get caught in recycling equipment.</p>	<p>#Recycling101. Can plastic film go in your recycling bin? Via @WasteManagement <a href="http://rorr.com">http://rorr.com</a></p>	<p>Plastic packaging from a recent online shopping spree? Wondering if it is recyclable? Don't be a wishcycler – this material can wrap around sorting equipment and prevent otherwise good material from being collected. Visit <a href="http://plasticfilmrecycling.org">plasticfilmrecycling.org</a> to see where you can recycle this material.</p>

Graphic	Twitter/Instagram Post	Facebook Post
	<p>#Recycling101 Quiz: Are holiday lights recyclable? Via @WasteManagement <a href="http://rorr.com">http://rorr.com</a></p>	<p>Can you recycle those holiday lights? Better keep them for next year. They can wrap around the equipment and prevent otherwise good material from being recovered. Learn more at <a href="http://www.RORR.com">www.RORR.com</a></p>
	<p>Learn to talk trash like a pro. What is contamination? #Recycling101 <a href="http://www.rorr.com">http://www.rorr.com</a></p>	<p>Wondering what contamination is and why it's so important? Learn what is considered contamination at <a href="http://www.RORR.com">www.RORR.com</a></p>
	<p>Learn how to "Trash Talk" like a pro: End Markets. #Recycling101 <a href="http://www.rorr.com">http://www.rorr.com</a></p>	<p>The recycling industry relies on end markets to purchase recyclables. Why are they important? Because if there is no end market, the recycler has no end use for the material.</p>

Graphic	Twitter/Instagram Post	Facebook Post
<p><b>Recycling 101</b> <b>Myth vs. Fact</b></p> <p><b>Myth:</b> The recycling arrows and or number means it is recyclable</p> <p><b>Fact:</b> The numbers and recycling symbol are not a reliable indicator of what can be recycled. However, the number only indicates the primary plastic ingredient in the recipe.</p>	<p>Myth vs. Fact: Do you know what those arrows and numbers mean? #Recycling101 <a href="http://www.rorr.com">http://www.rorr.com</a></p>	<p>We look at recycling arrows and numbers a lot. But what do they mean?</p>
<p><b>Recycling 101</b> <b>Myth vs. Fact</b></p> <p><b>Myth:</b> Containers must be rinsed prior to recycling.</p> <p><b>Fact:</b> Water is precious, so save it. Just make sure no food or liquid is in a container. Rinsing is not always necessary.</p>	<p>Should you always rinse? Follow this #Recycling101 mythbuster. <a href="http://www.rorr.com">http://www.rorr.com</a></p>	<p>Cleaning up after a party and wondering what can go in the recycling bin? Asking yourself "do I really need to rinse this can"? Learn how to recycle at <a href="http://www.RORR.com">www.RORR.com</a></p>
<p><b>Recycling 101</b> <b>Myth vs. Fact</b></p> <p><b>Myth:</b> All plastics are recyclable</p> <p><b>Fact:</b> Many plastics cannot be made into new products at this time. Recycle plastics with these shapes: containers, jars, jugs, lids and tubs.</p>	<p>#Recycling101 Myth vs. Fact: It's all about the plastics. <a href="http://www.rorr.com">http://www.rorr.com</a></p>	<p>When it comes to plastic recycling, we must stop looking at numbers and start looking at shapes.</p>

Graphic	Twitter/Instagram Post	Facebook Post
<p>One bad apple can spoil the bunch. The same goes for recycling. Keep the wrong items out.</p> 	<p>One bad apple can spoil the bunch. #Recycling101 <a href="http://www.rorr.com">http://www.rorr.com</a></p>	<p>Don't ruin the entire load of recyclables. Keep contamination out of your recycling bin. Learn more at <a href="http://www.RORR.com">www.RORR.com</a></p>
<p>Before recycling, flatten all boxes (do not bundle/tie up).</p> 	<p>One simple action will make a difference. #Recycling101 <a href="http://www.rorr.com">http://www.rorr.com</a></p>	<p>Make sure to flatten all boxes before putting them in your recycling bin or cart. Not only will it save space, but it will make sure no recyclables get stuck inside the box at the Material Recovery Facility.</p>



## Contamination 101

### What it looks like and why it's important to address it

As recycling programs have grown and transitioned to single stream processes, recycling simply has become more confusing to consumers and WM has seen a significant uptake in contamination. Contamination in the waste stream increases the risk to WM workers, raises the cost of recycling, and hampers our ability to recycle effectively (and in some cases results in products not being recycled). By targeting the following items and preventing them from ending up in the recycling, we can clear up the waste stream, keep workers safe, and make a difference for recycling.

### Plastic Bags

#### What's the problem?

- They interfere with the machinery – WM workers have to enter clogged machinery in order to remove plastic bags. Bags jam up the screens that separate recyclables from other material meaning fewer recyclables are captured. The machines have to be cleared manually which is risky for WM staff.
- They can make other recyclables look like trash—Bagging your recyclables in plastic adds another step to the sorting process. Specialized labor is necessary to unbag these materials, making recycling a more expensive process. Additionally, if they are confused for trash, these materials cannot be recycled.

#### What to do:

- Find out where you and your community can recycle plastic bags at [plasticfilmrecycling.org](http://plasticfilmrecycling.org).



### Non-Program Materials & Bulky Items (e.g. hoses, car parts, etc.)

#### What's the problem?

- Cumbersome items have to be removed from the waste stream manually – This can be risky for sorters and increases the labor costs of recycling, which raises the overall cost of recycling.
- The equipment can't handle big heavy items – They cause jams, break machinery, and can lead to plant shut downs, all of which limit WM's ability to recycle efficiently.

#### What to do:

- Check local programs for local reuse and recycling options first, before putting them in your waste bin. Visit [Earth911.com](http://Earth911.com) to find programs available in your area.



### Liquid and Food

#### What's the problem?

- It contaminates the recyclables—Food-soiled recyclables are less valuable to buyers, which increases the cost of recycling. Liquid and food that is released in trucks or in recycling facilities attracts pests that lead to unsafe working conditions.

#### What to do:

If available, put eligible items in the compost, otherwise use the trash container.





No plastic bags in the recycling bin

# DO NOT BAG RECYCLABLES

Leave items loose and empty

Return plastic bags to retailers or  
place in the trash bin



