

Single-Stream Recycling Guide

The Recycling Bin's

DIRTY DOZEN

Below is our Dirty Dozen hit list of the worst recycling contaminants that must **NOT** go in the recycling bin. Please help make single-stream recycling a success by keeping these materials **OUT**.



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 if they are *clean, dry and empty*. Learn more about the CHaRM at www.ecocycle.org/charm.



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 them with paperboard at the Longmont or Boulder recycling drop-off centers.



4 NO Non-Recyclable Plastics
While we have added new plastic items, many plastics are still not recyclable. Plastic lids, Styrofoam® and any other plastics not listed in these guidelines are not recyclable because stable markets do not exist for these materials.



5 NO Caps or Lids on Containers
Left on the bottle, caps and lids keep liquid inside the container (see item #7). Please remove and recycle metal caps and jar lids separately. Please throw away plastic caps and lids!



6 NO Plastic Lids or Caps
Plastic lids and caps are NOT recyclable on or off the bottle. They, too, are a non-recyclable plastic without a market.



7 NO Liquids
When we compact bottles for shipping, liquids drip, splatter and explode all over the floor, creating a sticky stew with a stench. Please completely empty and quickly rinse out all containers before recycling.



8 NO Ceramics or Non-Recyclable Glass
Ceramic, china, dishes, mirrors, light bulbs, Pyrex®, porcelain and window glass should not go in the bin! Their different melting points and chemical compositions will ruin new glass bottles. If our buyer sees just one of these on the top of a load of glass, the entire load could be rejected.



9 NO Diapers or Bio-Hazardous Waste
Syringes and needles, diapers and other sanitary products are not recyclable OR compostable.



10 NO Hazardous Waste
Hazardous waste such as paint, automotive fluids, car batteries and pesticides must be taken to the Boulder County Household Hazardous Waste Facility, not the Recycling Center. Call 303-441-4800 for more information.



11 NO Scrap Metal
Scrap metal items of any size should not go in your curbside bin. These items cause excessive damage to the recycling equipment. Please take these materials to either the Boulder or Longmont recycling drop-off centers and look for the specially-marked scrap metal bin.



12 NO Frozen Food Boxes
Paperboard boxes that were designed for freezer foods, such as frozen pizza and entrées, have a plastic polymer sprayed on them to protect against freezer burn. That same coating prevents the box from breaking up in the recycling process. These materials are not recyclable OR compostable.

THANK YOU for your help in keeping our recycling program one of the best in the country!

Want to learn more? Take a tour of the Boulder County Recycling Center to better understand what can and can't be recycled and why. Call 720-564-2220 for more information.