

Let's Talk Contamination

Items Not Accepted In The Mixed Recycling Roll Cart



With requirements changing in the world market, it's important now more than ever, that our recycling is as clean as possible. This not only means making sure materials are **empty, clean and dry**; but also that only the right materials are going into the mixed recycling roll cart. Check out the list below of common contaminants found in the mixed recycle roll cart, with information about why they shouldn't go in and how to properly dispose of these items. Always remember **when in doubt throw it out**.

| What | Why | Where it Can Go |
|--|--|---|
| Clamshells / Take-out Containers & plastic tubs | There is currently no place to recycle this low-grade plastic. End of life phase. | Place in garbage cart. Avoid purchasing when possible. Reuse containers to store household items. |
| Plastic bags, plastic wraps and other soft plastics | These items, mixed with other recyclables, can jam the sorting equipment at the sorting facility. Workers have to then climb inside the machinery to cut the material out. | Place in garbage cart. Use reusable bags whenever possible. |
| Styrofoam | Breaks into tiny pieces when compacted in the recycle truck; contaminates the other recyclables; uneconomical to transport. | Place in garbage cart. Block Styrofoam may be recycled at Fresh Start Market & Espresso in Salem (block Styrofoam only. No trays, cups) |
| Cartons i.e. soup, milk cartons & frozen food boxes | There is currently no place to recycle these materials. | Place in the garbage cart. |
| Clothing (Textiles) | Clothing wraps around machinery and can cause friction fires at the facilities where all the recycling is sorted out. | Donate; repair; repurpose as rags; or place in garbage cart. |
| Garden hoses and ropes | Ropes and hoses can wrap around machinery at the sorting facility, which causes damage. | Place in the garbage cart if it cannot be repaired for reuse. |
| Shredded Paper | The facilities that separate the mixed recycling cannot process shredded paper. | Bring documents to shred to Garden Services , if already shredded it should go in the garbage cart. |
| Garbage i.e. Diapers | Garbage is not recyclable and only contaminates the good material being placed in the recycle cart. | Place garbage in the garbage cart! |



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