

# Are YOU a Wish Cycler?

There's a term in the waste realm called "wish-cycling", tossing questionable items into your recycling cart hoping they can be recycled. As much as we're all aiming to reduce our waste and recycle as much as possible, it's important to know that wish-cycling seriously threatens the overall success of our curbside recycling program.



Here's a perfect scenario. When plastic bags or other flexible plastic packaging (which are accepted at depots only) land in your recycling cart and then make it to the sorting facility, they can wrap around sorting machinery or worse, act like paper on the sort line and end up in bales of paper ready for market. Those jams

can take many hours to fix, even halt the entire process, preventing any other items from being recycled. Paper bales with plastic mixed in could be rejected and end up in the landfill. Glass, another depot only recyclable, when it ends up in recycling carts, breaks and can embed in otherwise perfectly good recyclable material, such as newsprint or fibre, rendering that material unacceptable to paper mills for final recycling.

So, you see- Wish cycling leads to all kinds of problems at the sorting facility, from plant shutdowns to contaminating the end products, making them hard to or impossible to market and recycle.

Picture you in this scenario. You're standing in front of your recycling cart with a household item in hand, trying to figure out if it goes in the recycling cart, goes to a depot or somewhere else. You don't want to create unnecessary waste, so you toss the item in the recycling cart and think- the workers at the recycling facility will sort it out and make sure it ends up where it needs to go. Sadly, that is not what happens and all those materials that don't belong require extra time and people to pull out what doesn't belong. If the material is not caught in time it can get mixed in with good recyclables making them hard to sell to market. Worst case scenario, unacceptable items can plug up equipment, cause plant shutdowns and fires. Poof, all your great intentions to keep something out of the garbage has gone to waste

## Why Wish cycling is trouble?

Recycling programs are most successful when they can collect, sort and sell the recycled material. Recycling is done in batches. If an item that is not accepted in your collection program finds its way into a batch of recyclables, it can contaminate all the materials, which in turn can result in the whole lot ending up as garbage.

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## What to do if you are in doubt about an item?

- When in doubt, throw it out! Better to place an item in your black lidded garbage cart than risk contaminating the recyclables.
- Learn about all the residential paper and packaging that is accepted in your curbside cart or at a depot by visiting [rdco.com/recycle](http://rdco.com/recycle) -or call the Regional Waste Reduction Office at 250.469.6250
- Try downloading the free and easy to use Recycle Coach app for your smart device, you can search up what can be recycled and where at the touch of your screen.



# Recycling Guide

A Message from the Regional Waste Reduction Office

## How to Sort your Recycling

**What Goes in Your Recycling Cart** – Put these items loose in your cart, do not bag them

To the curb by 7am

**NO PLASTIC BAGS ALLOWED**



Paper, envelopes, magazines, catalogues



Cardboard and boxboard boxes



Shredded paper (put in clear plastic bag)\*  
\*only time a bag is permitted in recycling



Paper bags - single and multiple layer



Paper and plastic drink cups and lids



Hard plastic containers



Non beverage Gable-top and Tetra Pak cartons



Spiral-wound cans for chips, juice etc.



Frozen dessert boxes



Foil wrap, containers and plates



Metal cans and lids (with labels)



Empty aerosol cans (no paints, chemicals)



Plastic clamshells and trays

**Recycle at Depot Only** – Do NOT put these items in your recycling cart, take them to a Depot for recycling only



Plastic bags and overwrap



Styrofoam containers, trays, packaging



Non-refundable glass jars and bottles



Other Flexible Packing: Chip bags and snack wrappers, cellophane, zipper bags and pouches, mesh bags and more. For a full list visit [RecycleBC.ca/FlexiblePackaging](http://RecycleBC.ca/FlexiblePackaging)

**What Stays Out of Your Recycling Cart** – Leave these items out



NO Garbage



NO Hazardous Waste  
Take to a Recycling Depot



NO electronics, appliances  
Take to a Recycling Depot



NO soft or hard cover books  
Donate to charity



NO hard plastic toys  
Donate to charity



NO Tupperware containers  
Donate to charity

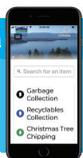


NO clothes, textiles  
Donate to charity

Download Your Own



Recycle Coach App



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