



How we can all prevent Recycling contamination, and why it's important

When it comes to recycling, we are all in this together. From all the dedicated collection staff that pick up your recycling every other week, to post collection staff at depots, to staff that work at the recycling plants, to processors of all the collected material, and you, we are all working together to ensure the success of our recycling system in B.C.

With that in mind, it's important to note contamination is a major obstacle in the recycling process. Contamination happens when any material that isn't accepted for recycling under Recycle BC regulations is put into a recycling cart.

There are lots of examples of contamination, and they include:

- Material that is not packaging or paper
- Material that can't be recycled with current recycling technology
- Hazardous material, including batteries, propane or butane cylinders, needles, lighters
- Containers with contents such as food or liquid inside
- Material sorted incorrectly
- Material tied in a plastic bag

Easy Steps to help Prevent Contamination

- 1** Sort all your material carefully. If you don't have room for your recycling carts inside, keep reusable shopping bags or smaller bins to sort your material. Consider a box or bag for things that go in your cart (paper, containers) and another one for depot-only materials (plastics, glass, styrofoam) so it's an easy transfer to the curb on collection day, or to your vehicle for your next depot stop.
- 2** Rinse out your containers as soon as they're empty so food does not become crusted on. Rinsing your containers before adding them to the recycling cart makes for a more pleasant recycling experience at home and in recycling facilities, and can help ensure more materials are recycled. Containers don't need to be spotless. A quick swish in dish water before you empty the sink will go a long way towards reducing pests, odours, and mess.
- 3** Check out the recycle guide here, visit rdco.com/recycle, download our Recycle Coach app, or check out the full Recycle BC material list to see what is accepted and how to sort it at RecycleBC.ca/Materials.

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



Paper, envelopes, magazines, catalogues



Cardboard and boxboard boxes



Shredded paper (put in clear plastic bag)*
*only one bag is permitted in recycling



Paper bags - single and multiple layer



Paper and plastic drink cups and lids



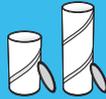
Plastic clamshells and trays



Hard plastic containers



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)

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



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

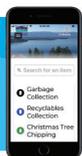


NO clothes, textiles
Donate to charity

Download Your Own



Recycle Coach App



RECYCLEBC
www.recyclebc.ca



Visit dco.com/recycle, or call the Regional Waste Reduction Office at 250.469.6250