



## Contamination Crisis

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#RecycleRightNJ



**“Recycling contamination”** occurs when the wrong items (for example, plastic bags) or the right items prepared the wrong way (for example, paper that is shredded) are placed in your curbside recycling bin.

**“Recycling contamination”** damages machinery, limits the resale value of recyclable materials and can even cause your recyclables to go the landfill.

**Are you guilty** of wishful recycling? Wishful recyclers toss the wrong items into recycling bins “hoping” they will be recycled. But, unwanted items can jam sorting machines, cause fires at recycling centers and end up being sent to the landfill.

## HOW CAN YOU HELP?

**Don’t** practice wishful recycling. When in doubt, throw it out. Don’t let your good recycling go to waste.

**Rinse** it out before you recycle it. Excessive food contamination ruins our recycling. Don’t put that greasy pizza box in your recycling bin! It’s an ingredient that can ruin your recycling!

**Keep plastic bags out** of your curbside recycling bin. Plastic bags jam up recycling processing equipment and can even shut down recycling center operations.

**Don’t toss** used metal cookware, stainless-steel bottles, old paint cans or metal car parts in your curbside recycling bin. Scrap metal put into your curbside recycling bin will cause mayhem at the recycling processing center. Earn some green and sell it to a local scrap metal dealer.

**Never** put potentially explosive items like propane tanks in your recycling bin. They are a prime cause of truck and recycling facility fires.

**Disposable diapers are not recyclable!** Please keep them out of your recycling bin.

**Remember** to keep hoses, cords and clothes out of your curbside recycling bin. These terrible tangles jam recycling machinery grinding operations to a halt.