

# THE WORLD OF RECYCLING IS CHANGING...

Keep it simple. Keep it clean.

## IT'S EASY TO RECYCLE RIGHT!



### Common Contaminants Explained

#### Why no lids or bottle caps?

Bottle caps and lids are too small or flat to make it through the mechanical sorting process, and end up as trash.

#### Why no plastic bags or wrappers?

Soft and flexible, they get tangled in the recycling equipment and shut the sort line down. The dangerous task of cutting this material off the line wastes valuable time and resources. It is important to keep this material out of your recycling cart. Plastic bags and wrappers can be recycled at participating grocers.

To find a store near you, go to [www.plasticfilmrecycling.org](http://www.plasticfilmrecycling.org).

#### Why can't I recycle Styrofoam?

Polystyrene is 99% air. To get this material to a processor, all the air would need to be removed. It is very expensive to collect and compact the volume needed to ship to a processor.

#### What about plastic deli and produce containers (clamshells)?

No, they are often brittle and break into small pieces during collection, baling and transportation. These small pieces cannot be captured for recycling.



#### Can I recycle flex packaging?



This packaging is not currently recyclable, but does have many good environmental and food safety benefits:

- Designed to keep bacteria out and its contents fresher longer, for less food waste.
- Light weight and flat when empty, it only takes ONE truck to get flex packaging to the manufacturers to be filled with their products, instead of 26 trucks of traditional bottles or cans, greatly reducing the overall environmental impact of this packaging.

#### Why no frozen food boxes or cartons?

Treated with a chemical wax-like coating, frozen food boxes do not break down during the paper recycling process and often contaminate other materials. As a rule – any paper product or packaging designed to resist moisture should not go in your recycle cart.



#### Can I recycle biodegradable or compostable plastics?

No, these types of plastics are often called "bioplastics." It presents a problem in the recycling industry as it often looks like regular plastic, making it difficult for consumers to tell the difference. Bioplastics are designed to break down and degrade. If mixed with regular plastics it will create defective recycled products.

#### What about glass?

Managing glass for recycling has become increasingly difficult and costly. Glass in the commingle is considered a contaminant by most recycling processors. While we currently accept it in your red lid cart, there are better options: you can take glass bottles and jars to our recycling depot at 8001 Table Rock Road. Also, most glass beverage containers can be returned for deposit under the Oregon Bottle Bill at the Medford Bottle Drop center. To see what is accepted go to [www.obrc.com](http://www.obrc.com).



# RECYCLE RIGHT

## SIMPLE STEPS TO SUCCESS!



### CLEAN MIXED PAPER AND CARDBOARD



### CLEAN GLASS



### CLEAN PLASTICS



### CLEAN METAL



# YES!

**KEEP IT LOOSE!**

Please do not bag your recyclables.

## COMMON ITEMS THAT ARE NOT ACCEPTED IN OUR RECYCLING PROGRAM:

**NO Plastic**  
Bags or Wrap



**NO Cartons or**  
Frozen Food Boxes



**NO Styrofoam**



**NO Paper Plates or**  
Cups



**NO Flex Packaging**



**NO Garbage**



**NO Food or Liquids**  
(clean empty containers, please)



**REMEMBER:**

**WHEN IN DOUBT,  
LEAVE IT OUT OF  
THE CART!**

**YUCK**