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RECYCLE RIGHT - A FEW THINGS TO KNOW

Since China enacted its Green Sword Policy in 2017, bales of exported recyclables can no longer have a significant degree of unlike materials or “contamination.” As a result, the United States has found itself looking for new and smarter ways to recycle.

It’s time to go back to basics, to know what materials are “accepted” and how to prepare them before placing in the recycling cart. When materials are picked up from households, they are taken to a Materials Recovery Facility (MRF) for processing. Technology is key to how materials are sorted, and markets dictate what materials are wanted by manufacturers to make new products.

Recycling companies are going after quality - not quantity. If residents follow these simple rules, recycling can and will get back on track.

1. Make sure that you only recycle “accepted” items.
2. Materials need to be empty and clean - free of food/ beverage residue.
3. Put recyclables in cart loose - do not put in plastic bags! Plastic bags and film wrap get stuck in the sorting equipment. Take a peek at the sorting process at a MRF - http://m.youtube.com/watch?v=vIYLnHQ9peM.
4. Some materials have reuse, recycling or special disposal programs, but should never be put in curbside recycling carts.

THINK BEFORE YOU BUY

Recycling is part of Sustainable Materials Management, but a better approach is to reduce use of single-serve, one-time use products and packaging. Take a beverage bottle or mug while on the go, look for items in bulk with little or no packaging, take you own containers to the store to fill, and don’t forget your reusable shopping bags - and put them back in your car for next time. Additionally, pack a waste-free lunch for work or school and leave reusable food containers in the car for leftovers when eating out. One simple thing multiplied by many makes a BIG difference!

swancc.org

Curbside Recycling Guidelines

Materials go in cart LOOSE! Empty & Clean!

Plastic
Bottles - Caps On Preferred, Tubs, Jugs, Jars
No Bags or Film
No Foam

Glass
Bottles & Jars

Metal
Steel & Aluminum

Mixed Paper & Cartons
Flatten Boxes

Verify details with your community’s recycler!

Do Not Put in Recycling Carts!

No Electronics or Sharps

No Plastic Bags or Wrap

No Food, Liquids, Diapers, or Shredded Paper

No Clothing or Shoes

No Hoses, Wires, or Hangers

Visit swancc.org and check IEPA’s interactive site at bit.ly/recycleil

SWANCC PROGRAMS AND RESOURCES

SWANCC offers the following programs to residents that live in a member community for materials that can be recycled or need to be safely disposed. No business, school or institutional materials will be accepted. IDs will be checked.

- Document Destruction Events
- Electronics Recycling (permanent drop-offs locations and one-day events)
- Fluorescent Light Bulb Recycling
- Holiday Lights
- Pharmaceutical Disposal
- Sharps Disposal

SWANCC offers a variety of resources to educate individuals about reducing, reusing and recycling opportunities, as products that can be healthier for our families and environment:

Books, Curriculum, and DVDs For Loan

- *Closing the Loop Brochure*
- *Eco Cleaning Guide*
- *Eco-Friendly Marketplace Guide*
- *Eco Landscaping Guide*
- *Green Pages Reuse and Recycling Directory*
- *Waste Reduction Solutions Brochure*

Informational YouTube Videos:

- *Composting at Home*
- *Electronics Recycling: Know the Law*
- *How to Dry Latex Paint and Dispose of Household Chemical Wastes*
- *Recycling 101: The Dos and Don’ts*

For details regarding the above programs and resources, or for addditional information, visit **swancc.org** or call the Agency at (847) 724-9205.

Connect With SWANCC

Join the Agency’s online community for upcoming event reminders and information on waste reduction, recycling and sustainability.

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