Below is a list of COMMON CONTAMINATION in Recycling:

1. NO Plastic Bags
   Plastic bags are the WORST contaminant in the recycling bin. Visit plasticfilmrecycling.org to find out where to recycle this material.

2. NO Plastic Bags with Recyclables Either
   Workers have to slow the conveyor belts to open bags washing time and money. Sometimes entire bags of recyclables are discarded.

3. NO Shredded Paper That's Not in a Paper Bag
   Shredded paper is too small to sort—the pieces fall through the cracks of the sorting machines, stick to the belts and end up all over the floor.

4. NO Scrap Metal
   Scrap metal items of any size should not go in your curbside bin. These items cause excessive damage to the recycling equipment.

5. NO Hazardous Waste
   Hazardous waste such as paint, automotive fluids, car batteries, and pesticides can be taken to Household Hazardous Waste STL.

6. NO Diapers or Other Bio-Hazardous Waste
   Syringes and needles, diapers and other sanitary products are not recyclable. Check out our recycling database for information about handling sharps safely.

7. NO Styrofoam
   Styrofoam® and other expanded polystyrene are not recyclable, even if there is a recycling symbol. Stable markets do not exist for these materials.

8. NO Flattened Containers
   Sorting equipment separates "flats" (paper) from "rounds" (containers). Flattened containers are mistakenly sent to the paper side of the facility, contaminating paper going to market.

9. NO Tanglers
   Tanglers are rope-like objects that get tangled up and completely stop the machinery at a recycling facility.

10. NO Liquids
    Containers that contain liquid can be mistaken for a different material and sorted incorrectly due to its weight. In addition, the liquid can contaminate loads of recycling.

11. NO Ceramics or Non-Recyclable Glass
    Ceramics, china, dishes, mirrors, light bulbs, Pyrex®, porcelain and window glass should not go in the bin due to different chemical compositions than glass containers.

12. NO Food of Food soiled containers
    Food waste contaminates entire loads of good recycling and can cause all materials to end up in the landfill.

Please visit our recycling database for more information on how to recycle many common materials:

stlcityrecycles.com/database