

Recycling's Dirty Dozen | 2

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 wasting 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

Ceramic, 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