



Non-Recyclable Items that Contaminate the Recycling

Below is a list of common non-recyclable items that should not be placed in your recycling cart. They will contaminate good recycling, potentially causing them to go to the landfill. Please note that it is not all-inclusive. For specific questions, please call our office at 608-257-4285 or email info@pellitteri.com.

- Anything in a black plastic bag (please use transparent plastic bags if you choose to bag your recycling)
- Brush & yard waste
- Styrofoam®, packing peanuts, and other foam plastics, even if there is a recycling symbol on it
- Non-recyclable plastics, including:
 - Plastic plates, plastic silverware, toys, random small plastic pieces, plastic lids that are not attached to a container, plastic totes, CD/VHS tapes or cases, etc.
 - Plastic film/wrap and loose plastic bags*
 - *to recycle plastic bags: place clean, dry bags into a clear or transparent bag and tie shut; a full bag should be the size of a basketball (grocery, newspaper, dry cleaning, etc. – no black or brown bags or Ziploc bags)
 - Frozen food or microwave dinner plates
 - Single-serve coffee pods (ex: Keurig K-Cups®)
 - In addition to the above: Even if something looks recyclable, if there is not a recycling symbol on it, it should not go in the recycling
- Full or only partially emptied containers, including: aerosol cans, tin/steel cans with food still in them, plastic containers with food still in them, cardboard boxes with things still in them
- Pizza boxes with grease/food on them (you can remove the tops and put those in the recycling, if clean)
- Extension cords, garden hoses, and other “stringy” items
- Misc.: Carpet, clothing, diapers, fishing line, food, hoses, ropes & shoes
- Rubber
- ANY Syringes, with or without needles attached
- Large metal items/metal items heavier than 10 pounds
- Brake rotors/drums
- Diapers
- Motor oil & gasoline containers (even if they have a recycling symbol)
- Flammable containers (even if they have a recycling symbol)
- Light bulbs (any kind)
- Construction waste / shingles
- Electronics
- Glassware & ceramics
- Mirrors & windows

For more information or an explanation about some of the contamination issues the industry is facing, please see these article: [Recycling – Contamination Concerns](#) and [Recycling Program Struggles](#).