

If each American made a conscious effort to reduce their contribution to pollution, we can impact the world our children will inherit. Start by becoming educated on the facts.

Recycling Facts

Paper products make up 40% of all trash. That can all be recycled!

Americans throw away 25 trillion Styrofoam cups that cannot be decomposed or recycled.

Americans throw away 2.5 million plastic bottles every hour!

All soda cans are made from aluminum. Each American uses about 400 cans a year. If aluminum is recycled, 95% less energy is used than if it were made from scratch.

The first real recycling program was introduced in New York City in the 1890s. The city's first recycling plant was built in 1898.

By 1924, 83% of American cities were separating some trash items to be reused.

About one-third of an average dump is made up of packaging material!

Every year, each American throws out about 1,200 pounds of organic garbage that can be composted.

A single quart of motor oil, if disposed of improperly, can contaminate up to 2,000,000 gallons of fresh water.

Quick Tips

Good to recycle	Bad to recycle	Notes
<u>Unbroken glass containers</u> Clear is the most valuable. Lids can go with metal.	Ceramics, pyrex, tabware, windows, lightbulbs, mirrors. Broken glass is hard to sort.	Only bottle glass is acceptable. Ceramics contaminate glass. Glass is normally color sorted for recycling.
<u>Clean dry newspapers & newspaper inserts</u>	Rubber bands, product samples, water, dirt, mold or other contamination.	Pack newspapers tightly in large brown grocery sacks or tie with natural twine. Keep dry.
<u>Empty metal cans, caps, lids, bands and foil</u>	Full cans, spray cans unless instructed, cans with paint or hazardous waste.	Metals can be recycled again and again.

Plastic stamped #1 or #2 on the bottom. Some areas only accept clear plastic or certain shapes.	Plastic types #3, #4, #5, #6 or especially #7. Caps are usually a <i>different</i> type from the bottle - toss if unmarked.	Even a small amount of the wrong type of plastic can ruin a melt. Much plastic collected for recycling is actually landfilled.
Grocery bags, most clear plastic bags especially if marked #2 or #4	Paper, water, dirt, mold or other contamination.	Reduce your need; reuse bags until they're torn. Use old bags to pick up dog waste. Many grocery stores have a barrel for recycling old bags.
Mixed paper: junk mail, magazines, photocopies, computer printouts, cereal/shoe boxes, etc. (some places also take corrugated cardboard and phone books)	Stickers, napkins, tissues, waxed paper, milk cartons, carbon paper, laminated paper (fast food wraps, some food bags, drink boxes, foil), neon paper, thermal fax paper. Any wet or food stained paper.	When in doubt, throw it out. Paper fiber can be recycled about 7 times before it gets too small. <u>Plastic window envelopes are ok.</u>
Scrap aluminum such as lawn chairs, window frames and pots	Metal parts attracted to magnets.	Aluminum is not attracted to magnets.
There is no need to remove labels or bands from cans and bottles. Clean only enough to prevent odors. Do not recycle containers with traces of hazardous materials. Do not recycle dirty or food stained paper.		

Contacts for Recycling Non- Recyclable Items

Motor oil (<i>never</i> dump into storm drains) and Tires.	Call your garbage company, local quick-lube, tire shop or call 1-800-MOTOROIL. Old oil and old tires are serious problems.
Automotive batteries, sealed lead/gel-cell batteries	Keep lead out of the environment; take to an automotive or security dealer for recycling or trade in.
Rechargeable batteries (cordless phone, camcorder, shaver, portable appliance, computer, etc.)	Call 1-800-8BATTERY for information. Throw alkaline and heavy duty batteries in trash unless prohibited (See California Universal Waste Note . Nickel-Cadmium rechargeable batteries contain toxins, please recycle.
Laser/Ink printer cartridges	Send to one of the many recyclers or refillers .
Household toxics (paints, oils, solvents, pesticides, cleaners)	Call your garbage company for advice. <i>Do not</i> dump into storm drains.
Computers, eyeglasses, household goods	Donate to charity. Give to a repair shop.