



Guide to Proper Recycling

What can and cannot go in the blue cart?

Customers are able to recycle a great variety of materials. Following is a list of the materials that can and cannot go in the blue cart.

Place in the Cart:

Paper-Newspaper, boxes, bags, cardboard (flattened), clean pizza boxes, magazines, catalogs, glossy paper, phone books, softcover books, shredded paper in paper bags, rinsed milk cartons, rinsed juice cartons, junk mail, envelopes, all colors of office paper.

Glass-All beverage and food containers in all colors. Empty container, rinse, and remove lid or cap.

Plastic-All #1 through #7 narrow-neck bottles and lids (water, soda, and detergent bottles). All California Redemption Value (CRV) containers. All colors. Non-bottle plastic-like toys, trays. Plastic tubs for margarine, butter, yogurt, etc. Empty all containers and rinse.

Metal-Food and beverage cans (aluminum, steel, and tin). Rinse. Clean aluminum pans or foil. Empty aerosol cans. Metal lids from jars.



Never Place in the Cart:

The following materials are not recyclable. Check website or call for proper disposal instructions.

Paper-No hardcover books or binders; soiled papers, food wrappings, napkins, tissues or towels

Glass-No drinking glasses; ceramics; window glass or mirrors; light bulbs or fluorescent tubes

Plastic-No cups, garden hoses, etc.; plastic bags or Styrofoam; PVC or other piping

Metal-No electronic or computer equipment; hangers; scrap metal; fuel tanks, propane tanks, etc.

Bundles, boxes, or bags of materials placed outside of the cart will not be collected.

Questions? Click recology.com. Call 448-2945 (Vacaville) or 678-4026 (Dixon).



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NATIONAL SWORD

WHY IT MATTERS HOW WE ALL CAN HELP



Workers on the sorting line in Vallejo carefully inspect recyclable materials. They remove any improper or contaminated items before materials are packaged for shipment.

China is one of the largest trade partners to the United States. Much of the recyclables recovered at communities in the United States are sold and exported to China. China recently announced a revision in the rules they have for recovered paper and plastic imports. These rules have been labeled the “National Sword” program by China. The National Sword rules go into effect in January 2018.

The most important change is that China will only accept a one percent contamination rate for paper or plastic products recovered through recycling. Originally, China proposed a contamination level of 0.3 percent. Suppliers in the United States believed that this level of contamination would be impossible to achieve, so officials in China settled on the one percent mark.

There are many other aspects of the National Sword program that result in a nationwide drop in the demand for recovered paper and plastic for recycling. The net effect of the National Sword program for customers of **Recology** is that paper and plastic products must be sorted and inspected with an even greater emphasis on eliminating any form of contamination.

The most common form of paper contamination is food residue. The cardboard in a pizza box, for example, is recyclable. If the box has pizza sauce or cheese sticking to it, then it is considered “contaminated” and cannot be mixed in with clean paper. Food, liquids, oil, and other chemicals can contaminate paper slated for recycling.

The other common way that paper is contaminated is by mixing it with other materials. Plastic bags are the biggest culprit. Paper that is not recyclable, like hardcover books or napkins, is another culprit.

Plastic is also easily contaminated. Again, any form of plastic bag is the biggest culprit. Plastic “clam-shell” containers, to-go containers, and plastic film are all common items that will contaminate paper loads. Items like plastic garden hoses are also a common contaminant.

It is important to know that the materials that are placed into the **Recology** blue recyclables carts are all sorted by employees at the recovery facility in Vallejo. These employees work hard to make sure only the proper materials are packaged for export to China. Customers can help workers meet these new standards by being even more diligent when sorting materials for collection.

Another way to help is to prevent waste from the start. Purchase products that use little to no packaging. Minimize the use of unnecessary disposable packaging. Conserve energy and natural resources by buying only what you need.

Carefully follow the guide on the other side of this flier. Help others understand how important it is to keep contaminants out of recyclables. Help **Recology** create a world where we all “Waste Zero”!



New standards by Chinese processing plants now reduce the allowable amount of contaminants to 1%.