

RECYCLING TIPS

Items listed below in **BOLD** may be recyclable at retail or other drop off locations in the Sacramento region.

LIDS/CAPS should NOT be included with any recycling, residential or commercial, in Folsom. That goes for lids from containers like yogurt or sour cream, loose lids from tin cans, glass jars, screw on plastic caps from drink bottles and pill bottles...all lids and caps. One reason they are not desired is that many of the lids are made from a different material than the container itself and are considered contamination if left on the container. But the biggest reason is that when left off the container and placed in the recycling, they are too small to be properly managed by the processing equipment and ultimately end up on the floor at the processing facility, causes maintenance issues, and wind up in the trash. Lids and caps should be left off the container and placed in the trash.

PLASTIC BAGS, FILM AND FLIMSY PLASTIC are NOT acceptable because these materials are hard to sort, and the marketability is currently limited, and they get caught in the conveyor belt assemblies and machinery at the processing facilities. This includes food storage (Ziploc) bags; **bread bags; produce bags; newspaper bags; plastic shopping bags; bubble wrap; stretch wrap; dry cleaning bags; garment bags; bags with sealed air for packaging (e.g., air pillows/cushions); cellophane wrap; cling wrap (Saran wrap); vinyl sheeting; floor runners; plastic product overwrap around furniture, electronics, toilet paper, paper towels, napkins, cases of drinking water, diapers, female sanitary products, and**

degradable/compostable bags; pre-washed salad mix bags; frozen food bags; candy bar wrappers; chip bags; six-pack rings; plastic shipping envelopes. They should be bundled and placed in the trash.

TANGLERS such as garden hoses, chain, electrical cords, string, wire and cables are not acceptable because they also get caught up in the conveyor belt assemblies at the processing facilities. Some of these items may be recyclable by other means i.e. scrap metal recyclers but cannot be put in the curbside carts or white recycling dumpsters provided by the City. Tangles should be bundled and placed in the trash.

SHREDDED PAPER causes a nuisance at the curb when not bagged (blowing away) and even when bagged it ends up on the floor of the transfer or processing facility when the bags break. Also, when you shred paper, you're dramatically decreasing the paper's recycling potential. Many recycling plants won't accept shredded paper because of its shortened fibers. Therefore, it's best to leave most of your paper intact and shred only the paper with sensitive information on it. If you must shred paper it can be used at home for packing material, animal bedding, worm composting or regular composting.

STYROFOAM or expanded polystyrene (EPS) includes foam cups & plates, **packing peanuts, rigid EPS packing, EPS clamshells and takeout containers, polystyrene hot cup lids, meat trays,**

egg cartons, coolers, and insulation which are not recyclable in Folsom's program. This is because EPS is typically bulky and lightweight and there are not any nearby processing facilities. It is not cost effective to package and ship this low value material long distances to recycling facilities. EPS should be dropped off at retail or other facilities that accept EPS, reused, or placed in the trash.

FOOD SOILED PAPER includes paper plates, pet food bags, coffee filters, tea bags, fast food packaging, greasy pizza boxes (recycle the clean tops), take out containers, paper towels, napkins, tissues. All this material should be disposed in the trash.

FLATTENING cardboard, cereal, detergent, frozen food, and other boxes is a must in order to maximize space and fit them into the recycling containers.

CLEANING FOOD AND LIQUID FROM ALL TYPES OF CONTAINERS is required to eliminate contamination that renders the recyclable materials useless. Emptying all food and liquid from containers and a quick rinse eliminates contamination and reduces the possibility of rodents, vectors (ants & flies) and odors in your recycling bins. Please make sure all your recyclables are clean and dry.

For additional information contact Folsom Solid Waste at 916-461-6730.