

Most common contaminants to keep OUT of your recycling bin:



NO recyclables in plastic bags. Empty loose recyclables in the bin and leave the plastic bag out.

NO foods & liquids. Compost instead! Otherwise, it belongs in the trash.



NO electronics, lithium batteries & appliances. Donate it or check earth911.com for a local drop off site.

NO textiles, bedding, rugs & carpets. Donate if it's in good condition.



NO hoses, holiday lights, hangers & extension cords. They wrap around equipment and can shut down an entire facility.

NO plastic bags, sheeting & flexible film packaging. Take clean and dry plastic bags to a grocer. Prevent them from shutting down recycling facilities.



NO paper napkins, plates, cups & tissues. Compost if possible, and remember to recycle the cardboard tube.

NO polystyrene foam. Foam and plastic to-go containers are not recyclable curbside. Find a drop off location at earth911.com.



NO tires, auto parts & scrap metal. These can damage equipment and are safety hazards. Contact local scrap recyclers or retail tire stores for options.

NO yard waste & wood. Compost this instead. Check with municipality or waste hauler for special collection.



Planning Commission

Phone: 215.345.3400

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Recycling Office

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Bucks County Board of Commissioners

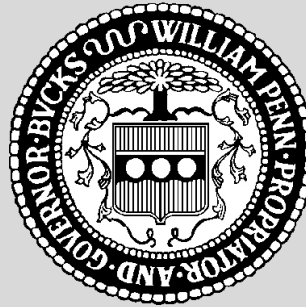
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Diane M. Ellis-Marseglia, LCSW, Vice Chair

Gene DiGirolamo, Secretary

Bucks County Chief Operating Officer

Margaret A. McKeivitt



For more information on recycling of various materials, please check out our website:

www.buckscounty.gov/recycling



RECYCLING FAQS

Know What to Throw!





Baled plastic bottles to be sold.

WHAT HAPPENS TO THE STUFF I SEPARATE FOR RECYCLING?

WHY CAN'T I RECYCLE EVERYTHING?

Recyclables are **commodities**—useful, raw materials that are bought and sold. All acceptable recyclables that you put out are sorted, baled, transported, and processed into new items.

- It's important to keep your recyclables **CLEAN, DRY AND EMPTY**, and to put out only what is accepted by your collector.
- Unacceptable items contaminate the recycling stream, may damage equipment, and end up as trash.
- Major contaminants are: plastic bags, textiles, food, moisture, diapers, and wires.

WHEN IN DOUBT...THROW IT OUT!

DOES RECYCLING SAVE NATURAL RESOURCES?

Yes! By recycling, we save nonrenewable natural resources, like aluminum and iron that need to be mined, and petroleum oil that needs to be drilled from the earth. Paper comes from *trees* which *are* renewable, but it takes a long time to grow a big tree! Recycling means that we don't need to extract minerals by digging and drilling the earth, and we can chop down less trees. This way, energy is saved.

WHY CAN'T I RECYCLE PLASTIC BAGS?

- Plastic bags get caught and tangled up in the machines, interrupting the sorting operations.
- DO NOT** bag your cans/bottles or mix plastic bags with your recyclables! Check your local grocery stores and large retailers to recycle.
- Reusable bags are a sustainable alternative for when you shop.



Workers removing tangled plastic bags from equipment.

AREN'T ALL PLASTICS THE SAME?

WHICH ONES SHOULD I RECYCLE?

Not all plastics are the same, and not everything that is plastic is recyclable. These manmade materials have different chemical formulations to give them specific properties suitable to their uses—strength, flexibility, heat resistance, transparency.

- Different plastic types must be separated before they are processed into new materials.
- Most plastic packaging contains a resin identification code (#1-7). Types 1, 2, and 5 are the most accepted.
- Check with your recycling collector or municipality to be sure of what they collect.
- Make sure that your recyclables are **CLEAN, DRY, AND EMPTY**.

WHY IS IT SO DIFFICULT TO DISPOSE OF AN OLD TV OR COMPUTER MONITOR?

In 2010, PA lawmakers enacted the Covered Device Recycling Act (CDRA) to get old televisions and computers into the recycling stream because of the lead and other toxic materials they contain. These electronics can be taken apart to recover their metals, plastic, and other parts. However, by 2017, this law was ineffective due, in part, to the lack of reliable financial resources by manufacturing to support collection events. If you have an old TV or computer, please:

- Check with your local municipality to see if they are holding an E-waste event.
- Check out our A-Z Recycling Guide at www.buckscounty.gov/recycling for local private vendors who will accept televisions and computers.
- Call the DEP Electronic Recycling Hotline 1-800-346-4242 and voice your frustration.
- Urge your state representatives to support legislation with a new approach.

THE WASTE HIERARCHY:

It's time to examine your buying habits and disposal behaviors.

