




Common Contamination at the Curb:

It can't go in the cart, so where should it go?

Contamination at the curb? What's the big deal? **Recycling works best when done properly.** Let's all do our part to keep the recycle stream free of contamination to ensure an efficient recycling system. Check out the list of common contaminants below and how to dispose of them appropriately.

Contaminant	Why not at the curb ?	Where should it go ?
 <p>Napkins & paper towels</p>	Used napkins and paper towels are considered contaminated because of food residue.	Put in your home compost system. Not allowed in curbside organics cart (a.k.a. yard debris cart). Home composter for sale at transfer stations.
 <p>Pet food bags</p>	Lined with plastic. Nearly impossible to separate the plastic from paper fibers for recycling.	Place in your trash cart.
 <p>Plastic bags</p>	Clog machinery at sorting facility. Therefore, it needs to be collected elsewhere. Return to retail.	The following stores have bins for recycling plastic bags: Fred Meyer & Safeway—The Dalles Rosauers & Safeway—Hood River
 <p>Plastic clamshells</p>	At this time, no market for this low grade plastic (all clamshells regardless of # on bottom). End of life phase.	Place in your trash cart.
 <p>Styrofoam</p>	Breaks into tiny pieces when compacted in recycle truck. No local recycling facility, at this time (but we are looking into it); uneconomical to transport.	Styrofoam that has touched food (cups, plates, egg cartons, etc.) must go in trash. Packing peanuts may go to local shipping businesses (as allowed).
 <p>Large Plastic Items</p>	At this time, no market for this low grade plastic. Examples: Toys, games, furniture. Plastic bottles and tubs ONLY.	Place in your trash cart.
 <p>Clothing</p>	Clothing and fabric are not part of the curbside recycling program.	For a directory of local clothing donation sites, visit: http://tricityrecycle.com . Click "Managing My Materials", then click "Reuse".
 <p>Food residue</p>	Food residue inside containers contaminates commingled recycling (e.g. yogurt spilling onto paper) and leads to mold and germs. Always rinse or wipe out containers so no food will spill onto other recyclable materi-	Rinse and recycle to remove food residue. If rinsing is not possible, hold onto the container until it can be rinsed and then recycled.