# **Recycling: Simple as 1-2-3**

# 1

# **Know what to throw**

# **ALWAYS** recycle these items:



**Paper** 



**Metal Cans** 



**Flattened Cardboard** 



**Plastic Bottles & Jugs** 

## **NEVER** recycle these items:



**Plastic Bags** 



**Polystyrene** 



**Batteries & Electronics** 



**Soiled Paper** 



**Greasy Pizza Boxes** 



**Yard Waste** 



**Clothes & Shoes** 



Food



**Toys** 



2

**Empty. Clean. Dry.**™ Make sure your recyclables are empty, clean, and dry.



3

**Don't bag it** Never bag or bundle your recyclables.



# **Expert Tips**

Learn to avoid common mistakes, tell the difference between what's recyclable and what's not, and use best practices for keeping your recycling clean and simple. You can really make a difference.



### **Separate combined materials**

Keep materials in separate categories — hard plastics, metal cans, paper and cardboard.



### Keep your recyclables dry less than a teaspoon of liquid

Don't allow any more than a teaspoon of liquid to collect in cans, bottles, packages or jugs. Recyclables should always be empty, clean and dry.



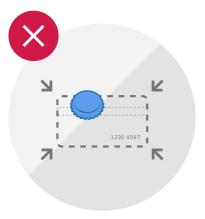
### If your recycling container smells, it's contaminated

If your recycling container stinks, it's contaminated with nonrecyclable waste. Remove the waste and rinse out the bin.



### If you can poke your finger through it, don't recycle it

If you can push your finger through it, the plastic is too soft and flimsy to be recycled. It would get tangled in the sorting machinery and jam up the operation.



### **Never recycle anything** smaller than an ID card

If the material is too small to go through the sorting equipment, it could get jammed and shut down the whole operation.

#### Some things can't be recycled in your bin at home, but they can be recycled or reused with proper handling:



#### **Plastic Bags**

Plastic bags can often be taken to the supermarket to be recycled with their specialized equipment. Ask your grocery store manager for more details.



#### **Clothing, Shoes & Toys**

While these items can't be recycled, they can be reused. Consider donating them to your local thrift store where they can be loved again by someone new!



#### **Food Waste**

Contact your local municipality to see if they have a composting program. If not, you can learn about creating your own compost online.



#### **Batteries & More**

Batteries, electronics and light bulbs cannot go into your recycling container and require special handling. Check local programs for disposal options.



#### **Pizza Boxes**

If you pull the greasy bottom apart from the clean top, you can recycle the top – and trash the rest!

