

# RECYCLING BIN'S DIRTY DOZEN

Please keep these materials OUT of the recycling bin.



**1) NO Syringes, Needles, Sharps, any other kind of Medical Waste or Diapers**

**2) NO Explosive or Hazardous Materials such as Ammunition, Motor Oil or Solvents**

**3) NO Plastic Bags**  
They bind up sorting equipment. **INSTEAD:** Take clean, dry and empty plastic bags to the CHARM (Center for Hard-to-Recycle Materials — see pages 8-9) or participating grocery stores.

**4) NO Food Waste**  
**INSTEAD:** Compost it — see pages 14-15.

**5) NO Plastic Packaging such as Block Foam, Packing Peanuts, Bubble Wrap, Plastic Shrink Wrap or Film**  
**INSTEAD:** Take #6 white block foam and bubble wrap to the CHARM — see pages 8-9. **Packing peanuts are NOT accepted at the CHARM.**

**6) NO Shredded Paper**  
Shredded paper is too small to sort — the pieces gum up sorting equipment. **INSTEAD:** Compost shredded paper or recycle it in the bin marked “Shredded Paper” at the the Boulder County Recycling Center or Longmont Waste Diversion Center.

**7) NO Scrap Metal**  
It damages sorting equipment. **INSTEAD:** Recycle scrap metal items at the CHARM — see pages 8-9.

**8) NO Liquids Left in Bottles or Containers**  
Liquids attract rodents and stinging insects to the recycling plant, and degrade the paper in the single-stream, making the paper non-recyclable.

**9) NO Non-Recyclable Plastics like Plastic Cups or Foam Cups/To-Go Containers**  
No stable markets exist to remanufacture these materials into new items.

**10) NO Ceramics, Drinking Glasses, Light Bulbs or Other Non-Recyclable Glass**  
These create dangerous flaws in new glass bottles.

**11) NO Frozen Food Boxes, Ice-Cream Containers or Other Plastic-Coated Paper**  
Their plastic coatings are not recyclable.

**12) NO Flattened Containers**  
Automated sorting equipment separates 2-dimensional or “flat” materials (paper) from 3-dimensional or “round” materials (containers). The equipment will mistakenly sort flattened containers as paper.