

# Empty. Clean. Dry.

The new way to recycle.



Reduce. Reuse. Recycle. Anyone growing up in the 1970s, '80s or '90s learned the three R's of recycling in school. We were taught to recycle everything we could. We added recycling containers to our homes, our offices and classrooms and recycling became a part of our culture.

In the 40 years since recycling was introduced, Americans recycle nearly 87 million tons per year. That means that each of us recycles approximately 1.5 pounds per day! However, the recycling model we all grew up with is changing, and we have to change with it.

Trying to recycle unclean or unrecyclable material increases sorting time and slows down the recycling process, damages the facility's equipment and causes contaminants in the bales of clean recyclables which decreases the value of the items. When this occurs, we have to put the entire load of recyclables into our landfills due to the contamination.

**Empty** means making sure there is no food or product residue. Make sure all of that goes into the trash or down the drain as part of the empty process.

**Clean** means that empty recyclable containers should be rinsed. So, no mustard in the mustard containers or leftover ketchup in the ketchup bottles. If you cannot get a container completely clean, it is best to put it into the trash so as not to contaminate the rest of your recycling material and the overall process.

**Dry** means letting containers dry before placing them in your blue cart so that the paper and cardboard does not get wet. Wet or soiled paper and cardboard cannot be recycled.

By practicing **Empty. Clean. Dry.** with our families, we can ensure the recycling materials leaving our homes are, in fact, recyclable. Together, we are caretakers of our planet.



EMPTY.



CLEAN.



DRY.

Please make sure your recyclables are **empty, clean and dry** before placing them in your recycling cart.



Sustainability in Action

# What Can Be Recycled?



## Recyclable

These items can always be placed inside your recycling cart:



### Paper

Paper (staples OK)  
Newspaper  
Envelopes  
Junk mail  
Phone books  
Brochures  
Magazines



### Cardboard

Ream wrappers  
File folders  
Poster board  
Frozen food boxes  
Cardboard boxes  
Milk cartons



### Plastic

Water bottles  
Take-out containers  
Soda bottles



### Metal

Aluminum beverage cans  
Food cans



### Glass

Bottles (clear, green and brown)  
Jars



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## Non-Recyclable

These items can never be placed inside your recycling cart:

Aerosol cans  
Aluminum foil  
Bagged film plastics  
Batteries

Food waste  
Mirrors or ceramics  
Plastic bags  
Polystyrene foam

Scrap metal  
Stickers and address labels  
Tissue, paper towels or napkins

Visit [RecyclingSimplified.com](https://www.RecyclingSimplified.com)  
for more information on recyclables.