

# Empty. Clean. Dry.™

The new way to recycle.



Reduce. Reuse. Recycle. Anyone growing up in the 1970s, '80s or '90s learned the three Rs 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 that 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.



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

**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. ***Please do not crush cans.***

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 this blue planet — our home, and largely covered with blue waters that flow beneath blue skies. It is worthy of every effort we can make to protect it for our children's children.



We'll handle it from here.®

# What Can Be Recycled?



## Recyclable

These items can **always** be placed in your recycling cart:



### Paper

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



### Cardboard

Ream wrappers  
File folders  
Poster board  
Frozen food boxes  
Cardboard boxes



### Plastic

Water bottles  
Take-out containers  
Soda bottles  
Detergent bottles  
Shampoo/toiletry bottles  
Food jars



### Metal

Aluminum  
beverage cans  
Food cans



### Glass

Bottles (clear,  
green & brown)  
Jars



**Empty.**



**Clean.**



**Dry.™**

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

## Place in your brown cart:

Plastic bags or wrap  
Soiled pizza boxes  
Polystyrene foam  
Tissues, paper towels and napkins  
Mirrors or ceramics

Diapers or wipes  
Dry paint cans (empty)  
Food waste  
Clothing or fabrics  
Pet waste or cat litter

Stickers or labels  
Soiled paper plates or cups  
Rubber products  
Spent cigarettes  
Foam products



## Household Hazardous Waste

These items should never be mixed with regular recycling or waste and require special handling. They can be dropped off at the Orange County Household Hazardous Waste Center located at 17121 Nichols Lane in Huntington Beach at gate #6.

Curly bulbs  
Fluorescent tubes  
Cleaning products and solvents  
Computers, electronics and cellphones

Paint  
Hazardous waste  
Batteries  
Sharps and needles

Pesticides  
Automotive fluids  
Pool chemicals

Visit [RepublicServices.com/municipality/huntington-beach-ca](https://www.RepublicServices.com/municipality/huntington-beach-ca) for more information on recyclables.



We'll handle it from here.®