

RECYCLING MYTH BUSTERS

Does everything I put in my recycling cart really get recycled?

We recycle everything we can that's put into the recycling cart, including all plastics, metals, glass, and paper. Sometimes, we can't recycle materials because they're wet or contaminated, or because it isn't recyclable (like clothing or Styrofoam).

What's the deal with the numbers on plastics (1-7)? Which ones can I recycle?

We recycle all numbers 1-7. Place all plastics 1-7 in the recycle cart. The number is located on the bottom of the container. It indicates the thickness of the plastic.

Are Saran Wrap and Ziploc bags recyclable?

Yes, we can recycle Saran Wrap (not cellophane) and Ziploc bags, as long as they are clean and dry.

Do jars and cans have to be "washed" before they can be recycled? Doesn't that waste water?

You don't need to wash your recycling; however, it should have very little food contamination. If there is too much (like half a jar of spaghetti, or a few sips from a soda can), we cannot recycle it.

What's wrong with using plastic grocery bags if they are recyclable?

While grocery bags are recyclable, they're still bad for the environment because people litter them; they blow out of carts and trucks and oftentimes end up in the ocean, where they harm marine life. They also require a lot of energy to produce, so you are better off using reusable bags.

What do you do with batteries? Do we recycle them or throw them away?

Batteries are hazardous waste and do not belong in the trash or recycling. They need to be disposed of at a hazardous waste facility or through the WM BatteryTracker program. For more information please call 1-800-744-0022 or visit www.wmlamptracker.com.

Do water bottle caps need to be removed?

Bottle caps do not need to be removed to be recycled. But make sure there's no water in the bottle.

Does it all recycling go in one container? Don't I have to separate it?

All recycling goes in one recycling can. We separate it at our recycling centers so you don't need to.