



# Single-Stream Recycling Guide

Save and Post!

You can now place all recyclables in one bin!



Opened mail & greeting cards



Paper egg cartons



Paperboard boxes



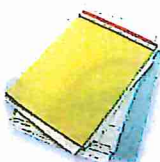
File folders



Blueprints



Magazines, brochures & catalogs



White or pastel office paper



Newspapers & inserts (no bags)



Phone Books



Corrugated cardboard & paper bags



Paper-back books



## Plastic Containers

(no #7 PLA compostables, no foam, do not flatten)



Bottles



Tubs



Jugs



Jars

NEW: Recycle plastic screw-top caps on EMPTY plastic containers!



Cans (do not crush or flatten)



Glass bottles & jars



Clean, balled aluminum foil (2" or larger) and pie pans



Loose metal jar lids & steel bottle caps

No need to remove: paper clips, stamps, address labels, staples, tape, wire, metal fasteners, rubber bands, spiral bindings, plastic tabs.

Please flatten all cardboard boxes.

Empty and rinse all containers. Do not flatten containers.

Please follow these guidelines carefully.

Questions? Call or Visit:

(978) -626-5227  
www.hamiltonma.gov



## NO

- plastic bags
- shredded paper
- hard-back books
- scrap metal
- Tyvek® envelopes
- plastic 6-pack holders
- needles or syringes
- paper ream wrappers
- plastic microwave trays
- frozen food, ice cream or frozen juice containers
- mirrors, ceramics or Pyrex®
- light bulbs, plates or vases
- drinking glasses, window glass
- hazardous or bio-hazardous waste
- plastics other than those listed
- tissues, paper towels, napkins
- waxed paper or waxed cardboard
- stickers or sheets of address labels (affixed address labels and stamps ok)
  - Kraft® (orange/brown) envelopes
  - Styrofoam® or paper to-go containers



plastic bags



shredded paper



Styrofoam® or paper to-go boxes or cups



no flattened containers



aim for zero waste

Single-Stream Recycling



# Single-Stream Recycling Guide

## The Recycling Bin's DIRTY DOZEN

Below is our Dirty Dozen hit list of the worst recycling contaminants that must **NOT** go in the recycling bin.

Please help make single-stream recycling a success by keeping these materials **OUT**.



### 1 NO Plastic Bags

Plastic bags are the **WORST** contaminant in the recycling bin. They get wet and dirty and cannot be recycled.



### 2 NO Materials in Plastic Bags

Workers have to slow the conveyor belts to rip open bags that contain recyclables and then add the bag to the heap of bags bound for the landfill. These inefficiencies waste time and money.



### 3 NO Shredded Paper

Shredded paper is too small to sort. The pieces get wet, gum up the sorting equipment and cause



### 4 NO Scrap Metal

Scrap metal items of any size should not go in your curbside bin. These items cause excessive damage to the recycling equipment.



### 5 NO Hazardous Waste

Hazardous waste such as paint, automotive fluids, car batteries and pesticides



### 6 NO Diapers or Bio-Hazardous Waste

Syringes and needles, diapers and other sanitary products are not recyclable **OR** compostable.



### 7 NO Non-Recyclable Plastics

While we have added new plastic items, many plastics are still not recyclable. Styrofoam® and any other plastics not listed in these guidelines are not recyclable because stable markets do not exist for these materials.



### 8 NO Flattened Containers

The Single-Stream sorting equipment separates "flats" (paper) from "rounds" (containers). When containers are flattened, the equipment mistakenly sends them to the paper side of the facility, significantly contaminating the paper we're sending to market.



### 9 NO Caps or Lids on Glass Bottles or Jars

Metal lids can be removed and recycled loose in the bin. Plastic lids and caps from glass bottles and jars should be thrown away.



### 10 NO Liquids

When we compact bottles for shipping, liquids drip, splatter and explode all over the floor, creating a sticky stew with a stench. Please completely empty and quickly rinse out all containers before recycling.



### 11 NO Ceramics or Non-Recyclable Glass

Ceramic, china, dishes, mirrors, light bulbs, Pyrex®, porcelain and window glass should not go in the bin! Their different melting points and chemical compositions will ruin new glass bottles. If our buyer sees just one of these on the top of a load of glass, the entire load could be rejected.



### 12 NO Frozen Food Boxes

Paperboard boxes that were designed for freezer foods, such as frozen pizza and entrées, have a plastic polymer sprayed on them to protect against freezer burn. That same coating prevents the box from breaking up in the recycling process. These materials are not recyclable **OR** compostable.