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CORONAVIRUS

EPA: Critical need to recycle all paper, cardboard

The US Environmental Protection Agency and cardboard box manufacturers are sounding the call for people across the country to recycle all paper and cardboard.

Here's why: Most of the products and foods we consume get shipped in cardboard boxes, and those boxes are made from recycled paper and recycled cardboard. Therefore, if we want the items we need to arrive at local stores and our homes, we must recycle paper and cardboard so manufacturers can make the necessary shipping boxes.

"Right now, there is a critical need for raw materials in the manufacturing supply chain, especially paper and cardboard," said EPA Administrator Andrew Wheeler. "Business closures and limited operations mean less recycled material for American manufacturers, and we all must do our part to recycle more and recycle right to fill this immediate need."

Emphasizing their call for public assistance, both manufacturers and the EPA say recycled paper and cardboard are needed to make shipping boxes for things we all depend on, including "medical supplies and food."

Some cities are pausing their recycling programs during the coronavirus outbreak, which caused the unintended consequence of reducing the recycled materials available to manufacturers.

Since the crisis began, Recology employees have continued to collect and sort recyclables across the city. And together with our customers,



The cardboard SF resident Kevin Shannon flattens and places in his blue bin can become new shipping boxes in just 14 days.

we are keeping San Francisco the nation's recycling leader.

"Recology has long emphasized that one of recycling's great benefits is providing materials for manufacturing,"

CUSTOMER TIPS

- Recycle all paper and cardboard.
- Break down cardboard boxes to save room in your blue recycling bin.
- Empty soda cans and shake out food containers to keep liquids and food out of the blue bin and preserve paper quality.

said Bo Duong commodities marketing manager for Recology San Francisco.

"Now, the EPA and paper mills are amplifying that message."

Reduced activity at restaurants, malls, office buildings, and other

businesses has resulted in significant declines in the amount of recycled paper and cardboard generated at commercial properties.

At the same time, shelter-in-place orders have resulted in increases in online orders for home delivery. The net result is more demand and less supply for cardboard shipping boxes.

San Franciscans, as a whole, do a good job of recycling.

"We are very proud of our customers," said John Ferrari, senior operations manager at Recology's Recycle Central on San Francisco's Pier 96.

"When we all recycle, we reseed the supply loop by sending needed materials back to manufacturers.

This is a real-world example of why recycling programs must continue and why Recology actively encourages all properties to recycle all paper and cardboard."



Photo courtesy of ThirdLove.com, a lingerie brand based in Dogpatch, SF.

Coloring & puzzle book Download free for kids

Looking for free tools that entertain and teach kids about recycling?

Coloring while learning about resource conservation is a great option, especially now that students are home because of school closures.

To support kids' curiosity and interest in the environment, Recology teamed up with artist and illustrator, Sirron Norris to produce a dynamic coloring and puzzle book. It features

cartoon characters, drawn by Sirron, engaged in recycling and composting and embracing simple actions that reduce waste.

We also produced a companion teacher's guide that is an excellent resource for parents.

You can download the book and the guide and see a video of Sirron working with kids at [Recology.com/ColoringBook](https://www.recology.com/ColoringBook).

The best way to contact us is through email: CustomerService@RecologySF.com

Out of COVID-19 crisis comes new life



San Francisco resident Dennis Hayes composts fava bean cuttings at Bernal Heights Community Garden.

Few things make taste buds dance like a juicy homegrown tomato. Leafy greens and red leaf lettuce thrive in San Francisco’s climate and are favored by both salad and sandwich lovers. Sugar peas grow fast and are easy to train on trellises and fences in small backyards.

Spring is time for renewing garden soils and planting seeds. And many San Franciscans, working from home during shelter-in-place, are finding both purpose and respite in the self-reliant and joyful act of getting

some compost to your garden, helps make all this goodness possible. Growing a vegetable garden presents a great way to connect with family members and offers learning moments that can help us lead richer lives.

While restaurants suspended table service and produced less material for compost collection in March and April, the tons of food scraps and yard trimmings Recology collected from curbside composting bins on mostly residential routes increased by 16 percent.

experiencing the strong, natural connection between growing food and composting our scraps. Food comes from the soil. Food scraps should go back to the soil in the form of finished compost.

San Franciscans are finding purpose in the joyful act of growing some of our own food.

Mustard, lettuce, herbs and more ► grow better with compost.

▼ SF residents are planting vegetable gardens, composting food scraps.



Growers, from professional farmers to beginners planting their first garden, instinctively know the quality of the soil is important. Compost is critical to soil health because it feeds the microbial colonies in topsoil that make nutrients available to the roots of plants.

Whether our food scraps make compost for our gardens or for local farms, we can all take satisfaction in knowing that when we place our coffee grounds, eggshells, and vegetable peelings in a kitchen compost pail, we help keep materials out of landfills, return nutrients to local farms, and help California save water. Good quality compost is 50 percent humus by weight and humus is a natural sponge that attracts and retains water from rain or irrigation.

We also take joy and satisfaction in knowing that the compost made from our food scraps help produce fruits and vegetables that come back to our tables, taste great, and support our good health.

our hands dirty and growing some of our own food.

And composting, whether just sorting your food scraps or adding

Whether composting at the curb or in our backyards, both activities encouraged by Recology, San Franciscans are increasingly

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