

RECOLOGY ASHLAND TACKLES CONTAMINATION AT THE CURB

It can't go in the cart, so where should it go?

Contamination at the curb? What's the big deal? **Recycling works best when done properly.** Let's all do our part to keep the recycle stream free of contamination to ensure an efficient recycling system. Check out this list of common contaminants below and how to dispose of them appropriately.

Contaminant							
							
Napkins & PaperTowels	Pet food bags	Plastic bags	Plastic clamshells	Styrofoam	Prescription bottles	Clothing	Food residue
Why not at the curb?							
Paper can be recycled only so many times. Paper fiber gets shorter each time it's recycled; by the time it becomes towel or tissue, the fiber is short, making this the end of life phase in the recycling process.	Lined with plastic. Nearly impossible to separate the plastic from the paper fiber for recycling.	Clog machinery at sorting facility. Therefore it needs to be collected separately.	No market for this low grade plastic (all clamshells regardless of the # on bottom). End of life phase.	Breaks into tiny pieces when compacted in recycle truck. No local recycling facility; uneconomical to transport	No markets currently exist for amber-colored plastic. recycling program.	Clothing and fabric are not part of the curbside recycling program.	Food residue inside containers contaminates commingled recycling (e.g. yogurt spilling onto paper) and leads to mold and germs. Always rinse or wipe out containers so no food will spill onto other recyclable materials in the cart.
Where should it go?							
Put in your home compost system or in your trash cart.	Place in your trash cart.	Take to Recycle Center at 220 Water Street or to participating retail store.	Place in your trash cart.	Place in your trash cart.	Either place in your trash cart or ask your pharmacy if they refill bottles.	See the Jackson County Re-Directory (http://jacksoncountyor.org/Departments/Solid-Waste/ReDirectory).	Rinse and to remove food residue before recycling.