



Household batteries – best practices



We are all encouraged to choose rechargeable batteries and to follow safe practices when disposing of expired batteries. These actions help achieve several key benefits.

Rechargeable batteries save you money because you can recharge them hundreds of times. Switching

to rechargeables also reduces the number of batteries we consume and ultimately need to discard.

PROPER DISPOSAL

DO NOT put batteries in refuse collection bins. Batteries can spark fires that can harm refuse and recycling workers, collection trucks, and sorting and processing facilities.

If you need to dispose of lithium batteries, please be sure to tape the contact points. Look for “Lithium” or “Li”. This includes most button and rechargeable batteries. Also, please tape the contact points on rectangular-shaped, 9-volt batteries.

People living in single-family homes can put expired household batteries in a clear plastic bag and place the bag on top of their landfill (garbage) bin. Your regular Recology driver will

put your bag of batteries in a separate bucket tied to the collection truck and bring them to the transfer station for special handling.

If you live in an apartment building, place expired household batteries in the orange battery bucket in your building. When the bucket is full, anyone can call Recology at the number on the bucket lid, and we will exchange the full bucket for an empty one.

San Francisco residents can also drop off batteries at 60 retail locations, including most hardware stores. Visit sfrecycles.org for a complete list.

Residents can also bring batteries to the Household Hazardous Waste Facility at the Recology San Francisco transfer station.

And under a new program promoted by SF Environment, residents can place loose lithium-ion batteries and battery-embedded products in drop-off kiosks at 8 retail locations. Visit sfenvironment.org for a complete list.

For more information on all the options available for San Francisco residents to recycle batteries and products containing batteries, go to sfenvironment.org and search “battery recycling options”.

REUSABLE TOTES

REDUCE WASTE

More and more San Franciscans now bring reusable tote bags to grocery stores and retail businesses to carry their purchases home.

Bringing your own bags is a form of reuse. And like carrying a reusable water bottle or travel coffee mug, keeping reusable tote bags at the ready when shopping reduces waste. That saves resources, which helps protect the environment.

In 2007, San Francisco became the first city in California to ban plastic bags. The action was part of a broader effort to combat plastic pollution. When the policy took effect, many San Franciscans switched to reusable tote bags. That trend continues today.

Grocery stores and other retailers now sell reusable totes in many different sizes and styles. Some are so popular, they’ve gone viral as cultural fashion statements on social media platforms.



If you forget to bring your totes to the grocery store, you can purchase paper bags. Brown bags are 100 percent recyclable. Paper grocery bags are handy for other uses and can be both recycled and composted in San Francisco’s blue and green bin programs.

Reusing totes reduces consumption of plastic bags, which are made from fossil fuels and harm wildlife, such as turtles, whales, and birds.

And reusing totes saves you money because you do not have to purchase bags when shopping.

Please do not place plastic bags in your blue bin. Plastic bags jam recycling equipment and can contaminate bales of recycled paper.

Every time you practice reuse, you help defend the environment from plastic pollution.

RECYCLE RIGHT

Help protect sorting workers and recycling equipment



Recology sorter Jeffrey Duong shows items that can injure workers and jam recycling equipment.

The sorting workers at Recycle Central, the large recycling plant Recology operates on Pier 96, play a critical role in San Francisco’s leading efforts to reduce landfill disposal and increase recycling. Their safety and efficiency are paramount to a successful program.

Taking a few extra moments to ensure you put the correct items in your blue bin can protect workers, prevent equipment damage, and keep the recycling system running smoothly.

When non-recyclable items enter the system, they can cause serious problems. Heavy, sharp, or tangly objects can jam machinery, damage equipment, or, worse, injure the workers sorting materials by hand. The safety of these workers depends on what we put in our recycling bins.

WHAT BELONGS IN THE BLUE BIN

The main materials accepted in San Francisco’s curbside recycling program include:

- Bottles and cans
- Paper and cardboard
- Plastic tubs and lids
- Clear plastic clamshell containers

WRONG ITEMS CAN CAUSE HARM

Heavy or sharp items can seriously injure sorters and damage recycling equipment. Batteries can start fires. Please **never** place these items in your recycling bin:

- ✗ Batteries
- ✗ Car parts
- ✗ Exercise weights
- ✗ Construction debris
- ✗ Garden implements, and tools

Other non-recyclable materials that can put sorters at risk and foul the plant include: wood, garden hoses, wire hangers, power cords, broken umbrellas, pressurized canisters, and electronic devices.

SMALL ACTIONS MAKE A BIG DIFFERENCE

Using your blue bin correctly takes just a few moments, but it makes a lasting impact. By recycling right, you help protect workers, prevent disruptions, and ensure that recyclable materials get a new life.

A complete list of materials accepted for curbside blue bin recycling is posted on the “What goes where” page on [recology.com](https://www.recology.com). Customers can also use Recology’s [whatbin.com](https://www.whatbin.com) search tool for guidance on what to do with unwanted materials.



The food scraps we place in our curbside green bins become finished compost that goes onto local farms. The beautiful produce they grow is available at the many farmers’ markets in San Francisco.

Here’s a recipe for the perfect coffee companion made with carrots, apples, and walnuts grown by local farms that use compost.

COMPOSTERS’ REWARD

Winter harvest muffins

INGREDIENTS

- 2 ¼ cups flour
- 1 ⅓ cups of sugar
- 2 teaspoons baking powder
- 2 teaspoons baking soda
- 1 tablespoon cinnamon
- 2 teaspoons salt
- 3 cups of grated carrots
- 2 cups of grated apples
- 1 cup of chopped walnuts
- 4 eggs
- ¾ cup canola oil
- 2 teaspoons vanilla extract

INSTRUCTIONS

- Heat oven to 375 degrees.
- Combine the flour and other dry ingredients in a bowl, then set it aside.
- Mix carrots, apples, and walnuts in a large bowl. Optional: Add 1 cup shredded sweetened coconut and/or ½ cup raisins for extra flavor and texture.
- Add eggs, oil, and vanilla. Stir in the flour mixture until well combined.
- Pour batter into muffin pans. Bake for 25 minutes.

