



### BEHIND THE SCENES

## From blue carts to brand-new products

Do you live in an area with recycling service? Ever wonder what happens to your recyclables after you toss them into your blue cart? Let's take a quick trip through the recycling journey:

### 1. Into the Blue Cart They Go

Cardboard, paper, cans, glass bottles, and rigid plastics all go in together. Be sure all containers are empty, clean, and dry. One cart, many materials, all ready for their next life!

### 2. Off to the Transfer Station

Your mixed recyclables head to the nearest transfer station — Oroville or Maxwell — where they're piled, sorted, and prepped for the next big step.

### 3. Onward to the MRF

At the Material Recovery Facility (MRF), a team of people and high-tech machines get to work. They separate everything into clean, tidy streams so each material can be transformed into something new.

### SORTED FOR REMANUFACTURING

#### Cardboard & Paper

Paper of all kinds is sorted by grade, then dropped into a massive blender-like pulping drum with warm water. It swirls into pulp while staples, tape, coatings, and ink are filtered out. What's left is rolled into fresh sheets, ready to make something new.

#### Metal & Cans

Cans get washed, shredded, and melted in enormous furnaces. Heat



**Clean cardboard collected from customers is dumped at the Oroville Transfer Station for transport to the recycling plant.**

naturally removes labels and coatings. The clean metal is cast into solid ingots or thin sheets — materials that can be recycled again and again.



#### Rigid Plastics

Plastics are sorted by resin type and ground into tiny flakes. After washing and density separation, they're melted

into small pellets called nurdles. These nurdles are the building blocks of new plastic items:

- #1: water and soda bottles
- #2: detergent bottles and milk jugs
- #5: tubs and yogurt cups

#### Glass Bottles & Jars

Glass is separated by color, then workers remove the labels and caps. The glass is washed, dried, and crushed into small pieces called cullet. Cullet is melted to 1600 °F, then molded into new containers. Like aluminum, glass is infinitely recyclable.

### CONTACT US!

Recology Butte Colusa  
2720 South Fifth Avenue  
Oroville, CA 95965

530.533.5868  
[recology.com](http://recology.com)

### OTHER RESOURCES

[calrecycle.ca.gov](http://calrecycle.ca.gov)

## THE POWER OF REUSABLES

Want to make a real difference at home? The best way to reduce waste is simple — say goodbye to single-use for good!

By switching to reusable items, you'll decrease the amount of materials sent to landfills, save money over time, and create a cleaner, greener household.

### THE BIG THREE

Keep these reusables handy wherever you go — a water bottle you love, a travel mug for your daily brew, and a sturdy shopping bag.



### FOOD STORAGE MADE EASY

Ditch the disposable wraps and sandwich bags. Instead, go for glass jars or durable containers. They last longer, look better, and keep food fresher.



### CLEAN GREEN

Trade paper towels for washable microfiber or cotton cloths. They're tough on messes, gentle on the planet, and easy to toss in the wash.



Less garbage means a healthier planet and a happier wallet! Start small, think reusable, and watch your home waste shrink in no time.

[ RECOLOGY SAYS ]

### "Smell the FLAVOR not the plastic."

Plastic packaging disconnects us from our food and can contain potentially toxic chemicals. Choose to reconnect with the fresh flavor of seasonal fruits and vegetables by avoiding plastic packaging. Shop local, bring your produce home in a reusable carry bag, and enjoy the flavor.



## BE WISE WHEN SORTING WOOD

**Not all wood can be placed in the organics container for composting.** Some types of wood are considered contaminants because they can ruin the composting process.

Think twice before you discard:

1. If it is natural, unfinished, and comes directly from a tree without chemicals, it may be placed in the organics container.
2. Anything manufactured or containing color, sheen, or glue should not go in the green bin.

To keep your container contaminant-free, follow these guidelines:

### ACCEPTED

- Raw wood scraps such as lumber offcuts from building projects

that are free of paint, dye, varnish, glue, or nails



- Untreated wood chips or sawdust from natural wood
- Small branches and twigs from yard trimmings (under 4" in diameter)
- Wooden chopsticks, skewers, or popsicle sticks if they are 100 percent natural wood and not painted or dyed



### NOT ACCEPTED

- Painted, stained, varnished, or pressure-treated wood



- Plywood, medium-density fiberboard, or particle board

- Burned or charred wood from firepits or BBQs



- Wood with nails, screws, or other hardware

Large pieces of wood, such as stumps, that may be difficult to compact in collection trucks can be hauled to:

- Oroville Transfer Station, 2720 South Fifth Avenue, Oroville, 95965.
- Maxwell Transfer Station, 3852 Co Rd 99W, Maxwell, 95955.

## NEVER PLACE THESE ITEMS IN YOUR LANDFILL BIN

- Sharps and Medication
- Fluorescent Bulbs
- Flammables, Pesticides, or Herbicides
- Electronic Waste

Maxwell Transfer Station:  
<http://bit.ly/3ZPWId3>

Oroville Transfer Station:  
<https://bit.ly/4nkp7fN>