



Recycle-ready packaging is the law



If your business or organization makes or purchases styrofoam products, it's time to switch to more environmentally friendly items as enforcement of a state law aimed at reducing waste and keeping plastics out of gutters, landfills, and waterways amps up.

California Senate Bill 54 (SB 54) requires manufacturers of single-use packaging and food containers to fund recycling programs, employ less packaging, and use materials that can be recycled or composted.

Although the law took effect in January 2025, some products that do not meet the new standard, such as styrofoam, are still commonly found. Styrofoam, made from polystyrene, is often used for takeout food containers, cups, plates, retail displays, and shipping inserts.

CalRecycle, the state agency responsible for overseeing and enforcing the law, is working with manufacturers to phase it out.

Styrofoam is virtually impossible to recycle because it breaks into microplastic that litters the environment and harms wildlife and can take hundreds of years to decompose.

HOW YOU CAN HELP

- Do not put styrofoam packaging, cups, plates, or other polystyrene items into the blue recycling bin.
- Place styrofoam, film plastics, and flimsy plastics into your gray landfill bin or dumpster.
- When possible, choose reusable or recyclable alternatives instead.

WELCOME TO THE TEAM!

Recology Butte Colusa Counties is happy to introduce **Rachel Ostrander**, our new Waste Zero Specialist.

Rachel has a master's degree in environmental policy and management and, before joining Recology, was a fellow with the California Climate Action Corps, focusing on wildlife resilience, urban greening, and food recovery.

"Those experiences strengthened my commitment to building healthier, more sustainable communities, and taught me that meaningful environmental work often happens when you are hands-on," says Rachel. "I believe strongly in the possibility of a world with zero waste, where resources are valued, and items are reused, repaired, or repurposed."

If you have questions or would like to talk about waste-reduction strategies for your home or business, contact Rachel or other members of the Waste Zero team at rbccwastezero@recology.com.

Rachel Ostrander



DON'T DUMP,

RECYCLE E-WASTE RIGHT

Electronic waste, more commonly called e-waste, is one of the fastest-growing types of discards. But, be warned, it cannot go into any curbside container.



Instead, bring your discarded gadgets to an authorized drop-off facility where a certified recycling program does the heavy lifting.

Whether it's a toaster, coffeemaker, computer, smartphone, power drill, remote-controlled toy, or even a drone, all of these items qualify as e-waste.

By steering these and all electronics away from the landfill and into proper recycling streams, you help keep hazardous materials out of the environment and give valuable components a second life.

E-waste can be dropped off at the Recology Transfer Station, 2720 South Fifth Ave. in Oroville, and the Maxwell Transfer Station, 3852 Old Hwy 99W in Maxwell, during regular hours of operation.

NO PLASTIC BAGS: KEEP RECYCLING LOOSE

Please do not bag recyclables. Place them in your blue container, clean, dry, and loose.

Lightweight plastics, such as bags and wrap, cause problems at recycling facilities. They get tangled in the equipment, requiring operations to shut down while workers climb onto the machinery to remove it.



Bagged recyclables often cannot be sorted and end up in landfills.

FREE YOUR RECYCLABLES:

1. Put empty, clean, and dry recyclables — aluminum, glass bottles and jars, hard plastics, paper, cardboard — directly into your facility's large recycling container. No bag needed.
2. Use plastic liners only for smaller recycling receptacles, typically inside offices or breakrooms.
3. Check the liners for food or liquid contamination before you empty the recyclable materials into the large recycling bin. If the liners contain food or liquid, they are contaminated. Cinch these bags and place them in the landfill bin.

RECYCLING TIP: RINSE, FLATTEN, AND RECYCLE RIGHT

Did you know that the way you prepare your recyclables for collection can make a huge difference?

Rinsing bottles, cans, and containers before tossing them in the blue recycling bin isn't just a nice gesture; it helps keep the system working efficiently. Leftover food or liquids can contaminate other recyclables, often sending them straight to the landfill.

Flattening cardboard is just as important. Boxes take up a lot of space in recycling bins.

Recycling is more effective when it's done correctly. It helps your business run greener while keeping average costs down.

Help divert recyclable materials from the landfill and be a Waste Zero Hero: Keep recyclables empty, clean, and dry, and cardboard flattened.



Pro Tip: Keep a small "recycle-ready" bin near your workspace or kitchen to collect clean paper,

bottles, and cans. Once it's full, dump the contents into the main recycling bin — quick, easy, and mess free!



NEVER PLACE THESE ITEMS IN YOUR LANDFILL BIN

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

Maxwell Transfer Station:
bit.ly/3ZPWld3

Oroville Transfer Station:
bit.ly/4nkp7fN