

The Importance of Recycling

IWS' State-Of-The-Art Recycling Center

At Interstate Waste Services (IWS), recycling is the cornerstone our commitment to environmental protection. We maintain up-to-date information on federal, state and local guidelines to ensure that IWS services are provided in complete compliance with these ever changing guidelines.

Along with local Material Recovery Facilities, IWS is able to utilize an award winning MRF of our parent company, the Action Environmental Group. At Action's state-of-the-art Material Recovery Facility (MRF), we engage in the automated processing of paper, cardboard, glass, plastic, and aluminum. Our team has decades of experience in operating facilities and the innovative Bronx site is one of the most modern and efficient in the metropolitan area. Today, we keep more and more materials out of landfills through greater efficiency and leading-edge technology.

On site, we have installed an advanced new technology: the RedWave NIR/C. This is an optical sorting machine that recognizes and separates the material and the color in only one step. Different kinds of material, like colored printed and not printed cardboard, catalogues, newspapers, magazines, plastics, etc. can be identified by Near Infrared. There is a big advantage in the separation of brown and gray cardboard due to the additional color sensors.

See this innovative optical sorting technology at [work!](#)

Single Stream Recycling

Single Stream makes recycling even easier! All acceptable items listed below can be placed into a single recycling bin. Please **DO NOT** place items into plastic bag, as they can damage our equipment.

PLEASE make sure you **DO NOT** include any food waste or residual food waste with acceptable recycled items!

ACCEPTABLE ITEMS - OK TO RECYCLE TOGETHER

	PAPER	NEWSPAPER, MAGAZINES, AND INSERTS WHITE AND COLORED PAPER TELEPHONE BOOKS JUNK MAIL SHREDDED PAPER BLUE PRINTS
	FLATTENED CARDBOARD	CORRUGATED BOXES CORRUGATED CARDBOARD
	BOXBOARD	EGG CRATES SHOE BOXES CEREAL BOXES
	GLASS	RINSED OUT FOOD AND BEVERAGE CONTAINERS
	METAL	CLEAN ALUMINUM STEEL EMPTY TIN AEROSOL CANS
	PLASTICS	ALL PLASTIC CONTAINERS #1 THROUGH #7 CLEAR AND BLUE TRANSPARENT COLLECTION BAGS

UNACCEPTABLE ITEMS - DO NOT INCLUDE

ABSOLUTELY NO FOOD WASTE	STYROFOAM	DIRTY PAPER TOWELS
HAZARDOUS MATERIAL CONTAINERS	ELECTRONICS	MIRRORS
CERAMICS	APPLIANCES	NEEDLES/SYRINGES
DISHES	WIRES	PYREX DISH WARE
WINDOW GLASS	CARBON PAPER	LIGHT BULBS
BATTERIES	USED TISSUES	

Proper recycling totter collection



The Problem with Contamination

Contamination happens when non-recyclable items are mixed in with recyclables items or when recyclable items are placed in the wrong recycling bins. For example, a paper plate covered in food or grease cannot be processed with clean paper and can ruin a newly made product. Too much contamination and the clean paper is no longer deemed acceptable and cannot be recycled. Paper that could have been processed into new paper products, now has to be carted off to the landfill.

The plastic bag problem – Do not place plastic bags (garbage bags, shopping bags, plastic tote bags, etc.) in your single stream recycling bin.

Plastic bags get caught in conveyor belts and jam spinning wheels and can bring the entire sorting station to a halt. The bags then need to be found and removed by hand - a time consuming and often dangerous process.

Plastic bags contaminate clean recyclable items and are deemed trash. Instead, you can bring unwanted plastic bags to your local grocery/retail store. Many stores have a plastic shopping bag collection area.