



WASHINGTON REFUSE & RECYCLING ASSOCIATION

WRRA Member MRFs Suggested List of Materials to Include in Comingled Recycling Programs.

1. Paper

- a. Newspaper including adds and inserts
- b. Corrugated Cardboard Boxes
- c. Direct Mail
- d. Cereal, Cracker & Shoe Boxes (Chipboard)
- e. Office paper- copier and printer paper, file folders, note paper, computer paper, brochures
- f. Magazines & Catalogs

2. Metal

- a. Steel (Tin) Cans
- b. Aluminum Cans

3. Plastic

- a. Plastic Bottles- #1 PET & #2 HDPE- Soda bottles, water bottles, milk jugs, Orange Juice bottles & jugs, detergent & cleaning solution bottles

*This is the most comprehensive list of materials to include. For those programs that choose to offer a more limited group, that would be acceptable as well. This list emphasizes the processing of materials that have the highest value and excludes those materials that erode the value through the collection of materials that contaminate the higher value materials.

Suggested List of Items to Exclude from Comingled Recycling Programs

1. #3-#7 Plastic Items
2. Plastic Bags & Plastic Film of all kinds
3. Flower pots
4. Paper Milk & Paper Juice Cartons
5. Aseptic Packaging
6. Shredded Paper
7. Glass
8. Hazardous & Medical Waste of any Type
9. Diapers
10. Fabric (Textiles) of any type
11. Wire, Rope, Chain, Garden Hoses & Christmas Lights
12. Wood
13. Trash – Put the Garbage in the Garbage Bin
14. Scrap Metal

Depot Alternatives

For those jurisdictions that would like to offer additional recovery options, it might be possible to establish drop off options at depots for additional items.

Reducing Contamination

Check with your local recycling program to learn which materials are collected in the comingled bin through your program. Ensure that anything you recycle is on that list. Ensuring everything that goes into the bin is recyclable is crucial for reducing contamination. Source separation of recyclables from garbage is the first step. Recyclables must be empty, clean, and dry. If you do not know whether something can be recycled, throw it in the garbage. When in doubt, throw it out.