

# City of San Diego What Goes Where Guide



Environmental  
Services

## ORGANIC WASTE RECYCLING



### Food Scraps



### Food-Soiled Paper

(paper towels, napkins, paper bags, parchment paper and coffee filters)



### Plant Trimmings and Yard Waste



\*Check with your service provider to determine what materials are accepted at your property.



compostable and biodegradable bags, tea bags, plastic containers, plastic film, gloves, disposable wipes, glass, plastic bags, pet waste, plant pots, dirt, rocks, bricks, plant tags, food labels and stickers, twist ties and silverware

## RECYCLING

All Recyclables Empty, Dry and Loose



### Aluminum and Steel Bottles and Cans



### Aluminum Foil and Trays



### Glass Bottles and Jars



### Boxes and Cardboard (empty and flatten)



### Mixed Paper and Shredded Paper (shredded paper must be in a closed paper bag)



### Food and Beverage Paper Cartons



### Plastic Bottles, Cups, Containers, Lids, Jugs, Tubs, Trays, Pots, Buckets, Toys and Styrofoam™ Packaging



\*Check with your service provider to determine what materials are accepted at your property.



plastic bags, plastic wrap, food or liquid, clothes, hoses, wires, electronics, hazardous waste, chemicals, batteries, compact fluorescent light bulbs, paper napkins and paper towels, any full containers, compostable and biodegradable plastics and diapers

## TRASH



### Hygiene Products, Diapers and Pet Waste



### Dish and Glassware



### Paper Plates, Cups and Takeout Boxes



### Tissues and Disposable Wipes



### Plastic Bags, Wrappers and Film



### Plastic Straws and Utensils, Products Labeled "Compostable" or "Biodegradable"



\*Check with your service provider to determine what materials are accepted at your property.



food, yard waste, recyclables, electronics, hazardous waste, chemicals, batteries and compact fluorescent light bulbs

## HOUSEHOLD HAZARDOUS WASTE

### Toxic Products, Electronic Waste, Paint, Bulbs, Batteries, Motor Oil, Needles and Syringes, Propane and Helium Tanks and Chemical Cleaners

Do not dispose of these items in the trash, recycling or organic waste recycling! They are considered toxic and could catch on fire. Residents can bring hazardous waste to Miramar Household Hazardous Waste Transfer Facility for free by appointment only. Call 858-694-7000 or visit [sandiego.gov/hhw](http://sandiego.gov/hhw) for more information or to make an appointment.



### Furniture, Appliances and Mattresses

These items are too large to fit into a regular recycle or trash bin. Check with your service provider to understand your bulky item disposal options or check out [WasteFreeSD.org](http://WasteFreeSD.org). Do not dump bulky items where they don't belong!



Learn more at  
[RecyclingWorks.com](http://RecyclingWorks.com)

# Recycle Right

Remember, your recyclables should be:

## EMPTY



Remove any remaining food or liquid from a recyclable item by lightly rinsing or wiping to remove any remaining residue.

## DRY



Gently shake out excess moisture or let the recyclable item air dry before placing it in a recycling container.

## LOOSE



Do not put recyclables in a plastic bag as they get tangled in the sorting machinery. Reuse a household container, a paper grocery bag, a cardboard box or waste basket to empty your recyclables into your recycling cart or a bin outside.

## Recycling Pro Tip: Flatten your cardboard boxes!



One un-flattened cardboard box takes up the equivalent space of 6 flattened cardboard boxes! Save space in your recycling bin by remembering to empty and flatten your cardboard before recycling.

## Frequently Asked Questions

### Q: How can I keep my green bin clean?

**A:** Keep your green bin clean by brushing out anything remaining inside the green bin after collection and rinsing with water over a landscaped area to remove residue. You can also delay adding food scraps to your green bin until collection day; freeze or refrigerate them until pick up day. Wrapping leftover food in a newspaper, paper bag or other food-soiled paper products can also help. And don't forget to line the bottom of your green bin with yard trimmings and other food-soiled paper products to absorb excess moisture and prevent food from sticking to the bottom of the bin.



### Q: Can I use compostable plastic bags or toss compostable products in the green bin?

**A:** No. Products labeled as "compostable" such as bags, take-out containers, coffee pods, cups, plates, serving ware and food packaging are not accepted in the green bin. The compost facility cannot always break these items down. They are considered contamination and degrade the quality of the finished compost. All plastic and compostable or biodegradable products should be placed in the trash bin. Additionally, please do not bag your food scraps in any type of plastic bags as most composting facilities do not have the ability to separate food scraps from plastic bags.



### Q: Why can't I recycle my plastic bags and plastic wrap in my recycling bin?

**A:** Plastic bags get tangled in the machinery used to process recyclables, causing equipment problems, facility shutdowns and safety hazards to employees. Plastic bags can also blow out of trucks and bins, creating more litter in our environment. We encourage everyone to use reusable bags as often as possible. Please visit [WasteFreeSD.org](http://WasteFreeSD.org) for plastic bag recycling options.



### Q: Do I need to empty the liquid or food from the container before recycling?

**A:** Yes. Liquid or leftover food can make your recyclables dirty and your entire container may become trash. When you empty and dry your recyclables, you allow your recyclables to be made into something new.



### Q: What do I do with my old clothes and shoes?

**A:** Give your old clothes and shoes new life by repairing them, donating them to a charitable organization or thrift store, participating in a clothing swap with family and friends, or reselling them online or at a garage sale. Old clothing can also be reused as cleaning rags at home. Do not place clothing, shoes or textiles in your home recycling bin.

