

# **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.



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.

## **Frequently Asked Questions**

#### Q: Why can't I recycle my plastic bags and plastic wrap in my home 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** for plastic bag recycling options.

#### 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.

#### 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.

### **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.









