

The Gainesville Zero Waste News

Dump the Cups – Not Recyclable

No matter the type - paper, plastic, foam, blue, brown, red, clear, coffee, or smoothie - **disposable cups are not accepted for recycling.**

Many disposable cups are made from a combination of materials, typically paper or cardboard coated with a layer of plastic or wax, to make them waterproof. The complex makeup of these cups necessitates specialized machinery and processes, which are not widely available.

The remnants of liquid or food left in disposable cups can contaminate other good recyclables in the mix, rendering that material less suitable for recycling. Contamination not only reduces the quality of recycled materials but also increases the cost and energy required to clean and process them.



One solution to avoiding disposable is to bring your own refillable mug or cup when frequenting establishments that support this practice. Notably, Starbucks recently introduced a policy allowing customers to use reusable cups. Be sure to let the barista at the counter or drive-thru know you brought your personal cup before they start preparing your beverage.

###