

# The Gainesville Zero Waste News

## First Rule of Curbside Recycling – No Plastic Bags

Unlike the first rule of Fight Club, this rule needs to be talked about. **Plastic bags of any kind are not accepted for recycling in residential curbside recycle bins or recycling in larger recycle containers at apartment buildings.**

**Plastic bags are the number one contaminant in the recycling industry.** Plastic bags negatively impact recycling when they become tangled in gears during processing and cause expensive damage to the sorting equipment. Also, the entire sorting operation must halt until the bags are dislodged from the equipment, which costs time and money.



**No Plastic Bags**

This March, local recycling collection crews have been auditing recycle bins set out with plastic bags. So, if you find bags left in your recycle bins after collection, this is a big hint that plastic bags are not accepted.

Instead, return plastic grocery bags for recycling to the store of their origin. Plastic bags should be empty, clean, and dry before placing them in the store recycling containers. Publix, Winn Dixie, Wal-Mart, Target, Kohl's, and other stores generally have designated recycling containers near the front of the store or near the customer service area where you can recycle your plastic bags.

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