

# The Gainesville Zero Waste News

## Why do I have to separate my bottles & cans from my papers when recycling?

Many folks love peanut butter and jelly, but have you ever tried separating jelly from peanut butter after it's been mixed? *Yikes! Good luck.*

Well, that's sort of what happens when recyclables get mixed together during collection and why it is important for residents to place the correct materials in the proper bins when setting out their recyclables for collection.

*Remember - containers (bottles & cans) go in the blue bin, and papers go in the orange bin.*



**The benefit of collecting these materials separately in a dual stream program are:**

- **It is less expensive to sort the recyclables.** Dual stream systems have significantly lower contamination levels than single stream systems, which means it is easier to sort the materials, which helps reduce processing costs.
- **The recyclables will have a higher market value.** The cleaner the recyclable materials come in, the cleaner they will be going out, which means more revenue to help offset recycling collection and processing costs.
- **Creates a more sustainable program.** With less contamination and more financial stability, dual stream programs are better equipped to manage changes in the industry.

To check what materials are accepted for recycling locally, visit [gainesvillefl.gov/WhatCanBeRecycled](http://gainesvillefl.gov/WhatCanBeRecycled).

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