

The Gainesville Zero Waste News

Recycle At Work - Keeping Your Cardboard Clean

The City of Gainesville's Mandatory Commercial Recycling Ordinance requires restaurants, retail outlets, and other businesses to **recycle cardboard while preventing non-recyclable materials from contaminating the recycling stream** (*City of Gainesville Code of Ordinances Sec. 27-72 & 27-85*).



Cardboard is one of the most extensively recycled materials globally. The fibers in cardboard are remarkably strong and can be recycled multiple times, leading to reduced energy consumption and less deforestation. Manufacturers need clean recycled cardboard material to produce everyday products we rely on, such as new shipping boxes, paperboard boxes, paper bags, paper towels, tissues, newspapers, writing paper, and chipboard.

Here's how you can keep recycled cardboard clean and dry:

- **Recycling Decals:** Ensure "Recycle Only" and "No Garbage" decals are on the front of recycling containers.
- **Employee Training:** Make sure all employees know to flatten boxes and keep garbage (trash, plastic wrap & foam material) out of the recycling.



Empty & flatten all boxes

- **Monitoring:** Recycling containers should be monitored regularly to ensure adequate service levels are provided. Recycling containers should be emptied before getting overfilled.
- **Keep Lids Closed:** Lids should be closed whenever containers are not in use to prevent rainwater from soaking the boxes or creating litter around containers.

By following these guidelines above, businesses can play a crucial role in sustaining the recycling process and contribute to a cleaner, more environmentally conscious community.

For more information, visit gainesvillefl.gov/Recycle.

###