

The Gainesville Zero Waste News

Busting the Recycling Myth: What Not to Toss In Your Bin!

Reduce, Reuse, Recycle - the three R's have become the anthem of the eco-conscious, but even the most recycle savvy among us can accidentally fall victim to "wishcycling," so let's take a look at some common contaminants that find their way into the recycle bin.

- ✘ **NO plastic bags** – let's set the record straight: **plastic bags don't belong in your curbside recycle bin**. But don't worry; there's a better way to deal with them: bring your reusable bag to the store, or just say no to single-use plastic.

- ✘ **NO plastic clamshell containers** – while they may seem like recyclables, they're not. Clamshells are made from a lower grade plastic and **are difficult to process**. Avoid these containers by getting your berries and salad mixes at local markets, and you can bring personal containers to restaurants for takeout.



- ✘ **NO scrap metal** – old tools, broken machinery, or those crumpled aluminum foil balls from your lunch, might seem tempting to toss in with your regular recyclables, but steel yourself: **scrap metal can cause havoc at recycling centers, damaging machines and creating safety hazards**. Fear not, metal enthusiasts! Local scrap metal companies will accept these materials and give them a new life.
- ✘ **NO glass candle containers** – they add a warm glow to our lives, but they dim the brilliance of the recycling process. Keep it shining bright by donating usable glassware and repurposing candle jars for storage or decoration!

After you **take these contaminants out of your recycle bin**, head to gainesvillefl.gov/WasteWizard, and start to #RecycleRight!

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