

Help us keep our recyclables clean.



# RECYCLING CONTAMINANTS

These items cause problems at the Boulder County Recycling Center. Please keep them out of your single-stream recycling bin!



## PLASTIC "CLAMSHELL" CONTAINERS for BERRIES, etc.:

There are two big reasons not to recycle these items: (1) There are no good American markets that want to buy this material. (2) Plastic clamshell containers like to-go boxes and berry boxes are so flimsy they flatten under the weight of other materials when loaded into the recycling collection truck. This is a problem because when automated sorting systems like ours "see" flattened plastic items on the conveyer belt, they sort them with the other flat items on the line, like paper, which creates a significant contamination problem with our paper.

## FLATTENED CANS, CARTONS AND CONTAINERS:

These are a problem for the same reason "clamshell" containers are a problem: When flattened, they end up on the paper line. Please don't flatten or crush your cans, paper cartons or plastic containers.



Watch videos about the recycling process and how these contaminants cause problems on our YouTube channel at [www.youtube.com/ecocyclemedia](http://www.youtube.com/ecocyclemedia).

# DIRTY DOZEN: TOP MATERIALS TO KEEP OUT OF YOUR RECYCLING BIN

\* COMPOSTABLE \* CHARM MATERIAL  
\* HAZARDOUS WASTE

### 1) NO Plastic Bags

They bind up sorting equipment. **INSTEAD:** Take clean, dry and empty plastic bags to the CHARM or participating grocery stores.

### 2) NO Materials in Plastic Bags

### 3) NO Flattened Containers

Automated sorting equipment separates 2-dimensional or "flat" materials (paper) from 3-dimensional or "round" materials (containers). The equipment will accidentally sort flattened containers as paper.

### 4) NO Shredded Paper

Shredded paper is too small to sort — the pieces gum up sorting equipment. **INSTEAD:** Compost shredded paper or recycle it in the paperboard bin at the Boulder County Recycling Center or in the bin marked "Shredded Paper" at the Longmont Waste Diversion Center.

### 5) NO Caps or Lids on Glass Bottles or Jars

Metal or plastic lids left on glass create impurities in the new glass bottles. **INSTEAD:** Recycle metal caps and lids loose.

### 6) NO Non-Recyclable Plastics like Styrofoam, Plastic Cups, Clamshell Containers, or #1 Berry Containers

No stable markets exist for these materials.

### 7) NO Ceramics, Drinking Glasses, Light Bulbs or Other Non-Recyclable Glass

### 8) NO Hazardous Waste such as Motor Oil or Solvents

### 9) NO Frozen Food Boxes or Ice-Cream Containers

### 10) NO Liquids Left in Aerosol Cans or Containers

### 11) NO Scrap Metal

### 12) NO Syringes, Needles, Sharps or any other kind of medical waste