

NEWS & Announcements



“WISHFUL RECYCLING” NEEDS TO STOP!

Have you ever been unsure if an item is recyclable so you put it in the recycling bin in hopes that you are making the correct choice? We've all been there, we want to do the right thing and recycling feels like a good choice. Or we've pitched something in the recycle bin because it's just easier than opening the lid to the trash can. Whatever your reasoning, **Please do not err on the side of recycle! When in doubt, throw it out!**

After recycling is picked up it goes to a sorting facility where materials are separated and baled for transportation to other states and many times other countries for processing. In fact, about 40% of material collected for recycling in the US goes to China for remanufacturing. When recycling is contaminated with items that are not accepted the value of usable materials decreases and cost of processing increases.

In the past few years, China has started to put more pressure on exporters to clean up the quality of recycling being sent over seas. They have been rejecting loads that have high levels of contamination and recently China has stopped accepting some materials from the US all together. In order to mend this relationship and reinstate trade agreements, US recycling facilities must achieve less than .5% contamination and pass rigorous site inspections from Chinese representatives.

As a result of increased regulation, recycle facilities have doubled material processing fees in the last 6 months and are implementing steep contamination penalties. If we don't clean up our recycling habits we risk, economic instability, loss of infrastructure to sort and consequently our ability to recycle all together.

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