

Recycling Update 2018



Greetings Refuse/Recycling Customers!

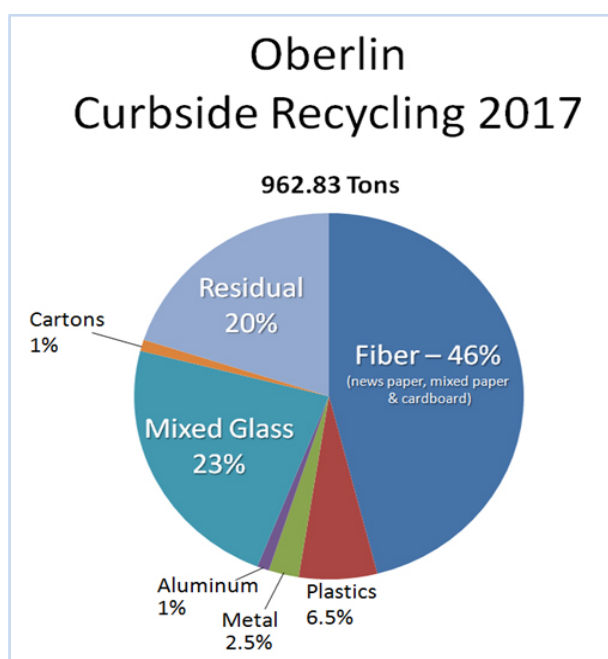
Just about every day in the news we read more and more about the world's recycling problem. After the decision from China, the largest importer of recyclable materials, to ban and restrict foreign waste, we are faced with the difficulty of recycling here in America, for ourselves.

Most Common Recycling Mistakes

1. Plastic bags
2. Disposable cups
3. Greasy pizza boxes
4. Containers with food residue

In case you haven't heard, last year China banned the import of 24 varieties of solid waste, including some types of plastic, unsorted paper and more than a dozen types of recyclable materials, including steel waste, used auto parts and old ships. Furthermore, China has imposed a rigorous contamination standard (0.03%) and is not accepting recyclable materials with a high percentage of contamination. For more than a year now, China's new scrap import policies have dominated news headlines and have caused unprecedented market impact for the industry.

Contamination – *material that is not recyclable* – is making recyclable materials unmarketable. One major source of contamination in the recycling stream are cardboard boxes thrown into a recycling bin without removing the styrofoam, plastic or other packing materials inside. Another common source of contamination is mixing recyclable items with trash and/or food; or worse, using the recycling cart as a second trash cart!



Recycling is an especially challenging business because of the sorting requirements. Single-stream or mixed recycling shifts the labor from the consumers (who sorted curbside recycling) onto the workers who have to pick dirty recycling clean. Even the best technology can struggle to sort well enough for the current market conditions so the systems still relies on people. Contamination depresses commodity values by adding significant labor costs to processing because workers have to be hired to manually remove the garbage from the recycling.

Additionally, over the past few years, there has been an uptick in the number of 'wishful recyclers' – people who want something to be, or wish something were, recyclable, (like garden hoses or coat hangers) and put these items in the recycling bin hoping that the MRF (*Material Recovery Facility*) will recycle them. Styrofoam, dirty takeout containers, plastic bags, batteries, Christmas lights and all those takeout coffee cups and lids are not recyclable here in Oberlin — yet many of us toss these into the recycling bin without a second thought. Another issue is people not cleaning their recyclables. A peanut butter jar is recyclable, but not if it hasn't been cleaned out. One dirty item can contaminate a whole truck-load of collected materials. Make sure your items are empty, clean and dry before placing them into your recycling cart.

Two-thirds of U.S. states are facing a recycling crisis. Mountains of plastic, paper and other materials have been piling up at recycling facilities across the nation. Recyclables are ending up in landfills en masse.

Some municipalities — from Sacramento, California, to Hooksett, New Hampshire — have canceled or significantly curtailed their recycling programs, leaving residents with no choice but to throw their recyclables in the trash.

HuffPost, July 24, 2018: The Dirty Truth Is Your Recycling May Actually Go To Landfills

Contamination has always been a problem. However, with increasingly stringent standards, it has become even more important to eliminate it. Every one of us needs to help by sorting and recycling smarter. We need everyone's support to make recycling successful. Let's start by keeping out the food, plastic bags and other trash. Only recycle the items shown on the back of this update.

There are so many big and small things that we can each do to reduce the waste stream, from refusing to purchase products with excess packaging, to avoiding single-use disposable items, to bringing our reusable bags to the store or mug to the coffee shop. Remember, source reduction and reuse are still the best and most preferred ways to lessen our waste, which is ultimately more impactful for our lives, our environment and the planet.

WHAT CAN NEVER BE PLACED IN YOUR RECYCLING CONTAINER



Diapers



Tissues, Paper Towels
or Napkins



Clothes/Shoes
Blankets



Yard Waste



5 Gallon Plastic
Buckets



Hardcover
Books



Ropes, Chains,
Cordage, Garden
Hoses



Plastic Bags



Food
Waste



Styrofoam



Shredded
Paper

WHAT CAN ALWAYS BE RECYCLED

Be sure your recyclables are
EMPTY, CLEAN and **DRY**
before placing them in your
recycling cart.



Paper

Newspaper
Envelopes
Mail
Phone books
Brochures
Magazines



Plastic

Water bottles
Soda bottles
Milk jugs
Shampoo bottles
Detergent containers
(remove any food or liquid)



Cardboard

Flattened boxes
Food boxes with
liners removed
File folders
Poster board



Metal

Aluminum cans
Food cans
(remove any
food or liquid)



Glass

Bottles
Jars
(remove any
food or liquid)

RepublicServices.com
800-433-1309

Documents & Paper Shredding

The City of Oberlin is hosting a **Shred Day Event**, with the Lorain County Board of Commissioner's Solid Waste District on **Saturday, October 20, 2018** from 9am to 12noon in the parking lot at City Hall – 85 S. Main St. This **FREE** service is provided by the Lorain County Commissioners and is available for all Lorain County and the City of Vermilion Residents only, for the destruction of personal and confidential paper documents. Documents from companies, organizations, churches, schools, and municipalities will not be accepted.

Visit <http://www.loraincounty.us/solidwaste> for details and schedule.

Frequently asked questions...

What is the proper way to recycle? Combine the 5 core items listed above in your curbside recycling cart. Do not bag them. No other items should be placed in your recycling.

Why did the recycling rules change? The rules for recycling have not changed. The rules have been clarified, with more information on the proper way to recycle. The only material that has been impacted is plastic. There are fewer end markets for mixed plastic and the price has plummeted. Now bottles and jugs are the only plastics that recyclers want. Recycling guidelines change over time due to the availability of end markets. The economics of recycling

have always driven what can and cannot be recovered.

Why can't I recycle more things in my curbside recycling? There are limits to recycling. The sorting technology at recycling plants is not designed to recycle everything, nor large items and is not available for some materials. The five items listed above comprise the core materials that facilities can sort and market at this time. When in doubt, contact us for additional resources; or if you have recycling questions, comments or suggestions at Recycle@cityofoberlin.com or call Lori at: 440-935-0096.

Recycle wise; sort smart.