Recycle Right Today

Presented by Republic Services and Oregon State University
Which of these items are recyclable?
Reduce

- Only take what you need
- Limit packaging material

Reuse

- Purchase reusable products
- Find new uses for things you would otherwise throw away

Recycle

- Most paper, glass, metal, and certain plastics can be recycled
Waste Reduction Examples

- USE A REUSABLE LUNCHBOX OR WATER BOTTLE
- DONATE AND PURCHASE REUSABLE/DURABLE ITEMS
- REPAIR ITEMS YOU ALREADY OWN
Let’s Define Recycling

• A series of activities that includes collecting recyclable materials that would otherwise be considered waste, sorting and processing recyclables into raw materials such as fibers, and manufacturing the raw materials into new products.
Paper Products that Can Go in the Tan Cart

- Newspaper, inserts, magazines, catalogs, phonebooks
- Ads, envelopes, mixed paper
- Paperback books (or donate them)
- Non-foil wrapping paper
- Corrugated Cardboard (3’x3’x3’ or smaller: flattened)
- Cereal, dry food boxes (remove liners)
Plastic and Metal Products that Can Go in the Tan Cart

- Plastic Bottles (no lids)
- Plastic Jugs
- #5 plastic tubs (no lids)
- Pill bottles (non-prescription)
- Empty, clean, dry aluminum tins and metal cans
These **Never** Go in the Tan Cart

- Food-soiled, frozen food boxes, wax/plastic coated cardboard
- Dirty or shredded paper, facial tissues
- Ribbon and foil wrapping paper
- Oil, paint containers and aerosol spray cans
- Empty motor oil and antifreeze containers
- Plastic plates and utensils
- Caps and lids
- Candy wrappers and chip bags
These **Never** Go in the Tan Cart

- Plastic shopping and garbage bags (**NEVER** bag your recyclables)
- Diapers
- Polystyrene foam, takeout containers, clamshells, coffee/to-go cups
Where does your recycling go?

Commingled recycling is sent to Source Recycling in Albany where it is baled for transport.
Processing at the Material Recovery Facility

• After commingled material is baled, it is transported to a MRF, or materials recovery facility, to be sorted.

• At the MRF, commodities are sorted into like materials.

• In this system, only those materials that are accepted by the MRF will be recycled.
The MRF – Processing

• Materials are loaded onto a conveyor belt and are sorted (contamination makes it tough)
• Some sorting is automated, with powerful magnets, series of screens and fans. This is not always the case. Some facilities, only have “pick lines”.
• The rest of the sorting is done by hand.
• Once material is separated into like commodities, it is baled for sale to manufacturers
Chasing Arrows
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Polyester:
- Thin clear bottles
- Textiles
- 3D printing filament

Polyvinyl Chloride:
- PVC pipe
- PVC-insulated wire
- Vinyl siding & windows
  (CPVC has more Cl.)

Polypropylene:
- Storage tubs
- Outdoorwear
- EPP foam

High-density polyethylene:
- Milk jugs
- Cutting boards

Low-density polyethylene:
- Ziplock bags
  (Branched chains)

Polystyrene:
- Plastic spoons
- EPS Foam
Recycling is Regional

• What is recyclable depends on demand for raw material and MRFs ability to process/sort it.

• What is recyclable here is different than in other regions.

• While things might be technically recyclable in a lab, some items are not able to be recycled at scale in a way that offsets the environmental or financial cost.
Plastic Pollution and Recycling Modernization Act

• Holds packaging manufacturers responsible for mitigating the environmental cost of their packaging

• Creates a statewide list for what is and isn’t recyclable

• Establishes a Truth-in-Labeling taskforce to study and make recommendations regarding deceptive marketing practices around recycling.
Master Recycling Certification

• Gain deeper understanding of waste management
• Become a true expert in waste prevention and recycling
• Become a trusted resource in the community for waste reduction and recycling
• Meet people who are as dedicated to keeping our community clean
Summary

• Waste reduction is better than recycling
• Items in your recycling cart should be Empty, Clean and Dry
• ‘Know what to throw’ and ‘When in doubt, throw it out!’
• Recycling is changing in 2025 due to the Plastic Pollution and Recycling Modernization Act.
Questions?

klarson4@republicservices.com