

# Recycling Naughty and Nice List

Over the holidays, households have more recyclables and waste from extra food containers to gift wrapping. We do appreciate the effort you put into staying green. As you fill your blue bins, take a moment to get to know what you should and shouldn't recycle and how to sort it.

From sorting in your home, to collection in a truck with separate compartments for paper and containers, and processing at our Recycling Centre, there are a number of steps recyclables must go through before they can be turned into new products.

Proper recycling saves time at the recycling centre, avoids costly problems, and results in more revenue when we sell 'cleaner' recyclables. The extra effort to get it right saves money for other community projects!

**Follow these tips to make recycling more beneficial for everyone involved.**



## 1. Surprise! Put gift wrap and bags in the garbage.

These paper items are coated with plastic or foil and contain lots of coloured dyes, making them non-recyclable. When mixed with newsprint and other paper, they cause big problems for the paper mills, and degrade the value of good materials. We know you mean well, but the right thing to do is reuse or place them in the garbage.

## 2. Be kind to the pickup crew. Flatten your boxes.

Ever wonder why your cardboard got left at the curb? Cardboard needs an extra step. Break down, flatten and bundle your cardboard boxes or stack them flattened in your recycling bin. Try to stick to 75 cm x 75 cm x 20 cm. With the extra volume of recycling during the holidays, recycling trucks need all the space they can get. We appreciate the extra effort this requires!



## 3. Plastic bags are not the kind of plastic we're looking for.

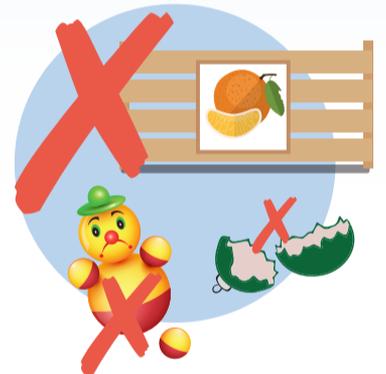
After all the holiday shopping, are you left wondering what to do with the dozens of plastic bags you acquired? The recycling bin is not an option. Plastic bags and

film clog up the recycling system. With all the spinning parts at the recycling centre, plastic bags can get wound up in the equipment and shut down operations for up to an hour. We know you don't want to put these in the landfill, so your best option is to locate a retail store that has a take-back program to recycle the bags.

## 4. Sorry, these items don't belong in recycling either...

Here are some other common items that should stay out of the recycling bin.

- ✗ Wooden clementine boxes
- ✗ Ribbon and bows
- ✗ Plastic toys
- ✗ Artificial trees
- ✗ Decorations
- ✗ Soiled paper plates, napkins, tissues, and towels.



## 5. Thank you for taking the time to sort it right!

Ever wonder if something should go in the paper bin or the container bin? Things like take-out paper coffee cups, milk cartons and juice boxes often end up in the wrong bin.

Here's a tip to help you sort it right: **If you can drink out of it, it's a container.**



Communities recycling together:

