



NEWS RELEASE

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Township continues Recycle Right education program with cart tags

THE WOODLANDS, TEXAS (October 11, 2021) – The Woodlands Township Environmental Services Department is continuing the Recycle Right education program this fall. Since its inception in 2020, Recycle Right has helped The Woodlands reduce recycling contamination by 14 percent.

Recycle Right provides straightforward guidelines for residents, clarifying what belongs in our curbside recycle carts and, just as important, what does not. By placing only accepted materials in our recycle carts, we keep contamination low and the Township’s recycling program running strong.

As part of Recycle Right, Township staff will place an educational tag on all residential curbside carts between October and November of 2021. Tags are for general education only; no inspections of cart contents will be made.

Residents are encouraged to save the tag and refer to it when questioning whether an item belongs in their cart. The golden rule: if it’s not on the tag, it doesn’t belong in the cart. Unacceptable items, regardless of the material they are made of, will not get recycled. As well, they degrade the value of the acceptable items and cause problems for the staff and equipment at the recycling facility.

Common contaminants include plastic bags, greasy pizza boxes, Styrofoam, wires, yard trimmings and coat hangers. And please, *never bag recyclables*. Good recyclables that are bundled inside a plastic bag may be treated as a contaminant and discarded at the recycle center. Place all recyclables loose into your cart.

“Changes in international recycling markets have led to stricter quality standards for recyclable materials. To help meet these standards and keep our residential recycling program strong, The Woodlands Township has set a goal of less than 25 percent contamination in the residential curbside program. We are achieving this goal at the current time, and we need every household’s help to continue to do so.” says Township Environmental Services Manager John Geiger.

For more information about The Township residential recycling program, including options for recycling items that can't be placed curbside, please contact The Woodlands Township Environmental Services Department at <http://www.thewoodlandstowship-tx.gov/recycling>; enviro@thewoodlandstowship-tx.gov or by calling 281-210-3800.

Cart Tagging Procedure

When: October – November, 2021

Where: All single-family homes within the Township

What: Township employees will be placing an educational tag on each recycling cart on their regular service day.

Residential Recycling Guidelines

1. Do not bag recyclables.
2. Do not put plastic bags in cart.
3. Empty, rinse and put caps back on container.



ACCEPTABLE MATERIALS - Recycle only these items. All others are contaminants that harm the recycling process

Acceptable Materials	How to prepare:
Cans - Aluminum, tin or steel cans	Empty and rinse
Cartons – Milk, juice and soup containers	Empty, rinse and keep caps on
Cardboard – Boxes, paperboard and tubes	Flatten boxes. Schedule bulk pickup if needed.
Glass - Bottles and jars of all colors	Empty and rinse. Food containers only. No ceramic, mirrors, plates/cups or pyrex.
Paper – Office paper, phone books, mail, newspaper, paper bags and magazines	Clean paper only. No pizza boxes, paper towels or food stained materials.
Plastic Containers #1-5 – Bottles, tubs and jars	Empty, rinse and keep caps on. Rigid containers only. No plastic bags or film.

Trash

When in doubt, throw it out.



UNACCEPTABLE MATERIALS - Anything that isn't on the Acceptable Materials list including these items cannot go in the recycling cart. Seek other recycling opportunity or throw in trash.

Unacceptable Materials (Contaminants)	Alternative disposal options:
Plastic bags, films and case wrap	Any clean, dry and stretchy film other than frozen food bags can be recycled at grocery stores. Examples: newspaper sleeves, bread bags, bubble wrap, shrink wrap and more .
Clothing, linens and home goods	Donate clean, usable items to charitable organizations here .
Yard trimmings	Check curbside collection guidelines here .
Pizza boxes	Tear off the clean top for recycling. Throw greasy part in trash.
Chip bags, candy wrappers and food pouches	Flexible packaging must be thrown away. Only recycle rigid containers marked 1-5.
Chemicals, paints and hazardous waste	Check the Recycle More Guide for options.
Electronics and batteries	Check the Recycle More Guide for options.
Shredded Paper	Plain, non-glossy shredded paper can be put into a compostable bag and included with yard waste. Check Curbside Collection Guidelines .
Styrofoam	Check the Recycle More Guide for options.



Recycle Right

Remember these guidelines:



DO NOT
bag recyclables



NO
plastic bags



Empty, rinse
and replace caps

Recycle these items ONLY:

<p>Cans</p>  <p>Aluminum, Tin & Steel</p>	<p>Cartons</p>  <p>Food & Beverage</p>
<p>Paper</p>  <p>Paper, Newspaper, Magazines, Cardboard</p>	<p>Glass</p>  <p>Bottles and Jars</p>
<p>Plastic</p>  <p>Kitchen, Laundry & Bath Bottles, Tubs & Containers</p>	

WHEN IN DOUBT, THROW IT OUT!



DO NOT BAG Recyclables

Collecting recyclables in a bag?
Empty the contents into the cart.

 Recycle plastic bags at local
grocery stores only.

For more information visit
www.thewoodlandstowship-tx.gov/recycling
or call 281-210-3800



A new tag will be placed on residential recycling carts to help residents better understand how to Recycle Right.