

Are you Wish Cycling?

Is it possible you or someone in your family is Wish Cycling? You're about to toss something into your recycling cart, not entirely sure if it belongs, and in it goes. The assumption? Surely it will all work itself out, someone somewhere along the recycling sort line will take care of it the right way.

That behavior is commonly known in the waste industry as "Wish Cycling" - The practice of tossing questionable household items into the recycling cart, hoping they can somehow be recycled.

If you recognize you have, on occasion, done some Wish Cycling, you're not alone. It's a common and troublesome occurrence for a slew of reasons, not just here at depots and in curbside carts in the Central Okanagan, but right across the country. The types of items that cause the problems vary slightly from region to region, but there are rafts of them that frequently show up at recycling processing facilities. Plastic bags and wrap cause equipment malfunctions and sometimes full on plant shutdowns. Glass, sharps, and hazardous wastes cause worker injuries, and contamination of the end product. Garbage and other non-recyclable plastics can be difficult to spot or sort and end up contaminating other 'clean' recyclables. We've been hearing a lot about that lately as global markets have tightened up and many overseas countries are simply refusing contaminated commodities that used to be accepted. So, the household recycling you have so diligently sorted at home, with all good intention is, oftentimes hard if not impossible to market or recycle if it has items that don't belong.

How to combat Wish Cycling? Get familiar with the guidelines of your local recycling program so that your good intentions stay that way. Visit regionaldistrict.com/recycle

to view current recycle menus. Download a handy guide to post on your fridge or recycle cart or somewhere prominent in your home for the whole family to see. And while you're at it, download the FREE easy to use my-waste app, all the info you need at the touch of a fingertip. And, anytime, call the Regional Waste Reduction Office at 250.469.6250. We're here to help!

Here's a list — Items that should stay out of your recycling cart, ALWAYS:

- Durable plastic products - plastic toys, hangers, 'tupperware' type containers, laundry baskets, straws, plastic cutlery, plastic dishes
- Hard and soft cover books - text books and novels
- Textiles - clothes, pillows, sheets, rags, shoes
- Scrap Metal - pots and pans, auto parts, chains, bike parts
- Plastic Bags (take these to a depot)
- Glass jars (take these to a depot)
- Styrofoam (take this to a depot)
- Electronics (take these to a depot)
- Soft plastics - cling wrap, stand up pouches, cereal bags, chip bags, candy wrappers, etc.
- Hazardous Wastes - chemical containers, propane tanks, sharps (take these to a depot)



What to Recycle

Items marked with an **X** should be placed in the garbage.

Download your own
my-waste® app



Paper Cups & Lids

- ✓ All disposable paper based cups & lids

DO NOT INCLUDE

- X Straws



Frozen Food Packaging

- ✓ Rinsed, plastic coated boxes such as ice cream cartons



Aerosol Cans & Caps

- ✓ Hairspray, deodorant, shaving cream, air freshener, food based aerosols
- ✓ Cans must be completely empty

DO NOT INCLUDE

- Spray paint cans (please take to hazardous waste depot)
- Propane cylinders (please call for recycling options)

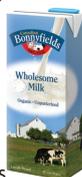


Cartons (plastic coated)

- ✓ Rinsed milk/milk alternative cartons
- ✓ Rinsed soup 'tetra-pak' containers

DO NOT INCLUDE

- X Straws
- X Stand-up drink pouches



Aluminum

- ✓ Foil & food containers
- ✓ Empty & rinse
- ✓ Labels are ok

DO NOT INCLUDE

- X Chip or foil bags
- X Foil wrap from butter or cigarettes

Tin Cans & Lids

- ✓ All tin cans, keep lids attached
- ✓ Empty & rinse
- ✓ Labels are ok

DO NOT INCLUDE

- Coat hangers, pots, pans or baking trays (please donate or take to metal recycler)



Paper, Newspaper, Magazines

- ✓ Newspapers, flyers & inserts
- ✓ Shredded paper accepted inside **CLEAR** plastic bag
- ✓ White & coloured paper & magazines, catalogues, phone books

DO NOT INCLUDE

- X **NEW** Paper bags with a plastic layer, e.g. pet food bags, tortilla chip bags
- X Carbon paper, used tissue or paper towels, foil gift wrap, ribbons, bows, padded envelopes
- Books (please donate)



Plastic Containers & Lids

- ✓ All empty & rinsed household plastic containers

DO NOT INCLUDE

- X Lawn edging, tarps, plastic furniture or toys or garden hoses
- Motor oil or chemical containers (visit www.usedoilrecycling.com for drop off locations)

PLASTIC BAGS & STYROFOAM must be taken to DEPOT ONLY

Spiral Wound Paper Cans & Lids

- ✓ Frozen juice, coffee cans, nuts, chips, baby formula cans
- ✓ Put lids in cart loose



Microwaveable Paper Containers

- ✓ Single serve soups & other paper bowls

DO NOT INCLUDE

- X Bowls with metal rims



Cardboard & Boxboard

- ✓ Clean cardboard boxes, pizza boxes etc.
- ✓ Cereal box-type cardboard

DO NOT INCLUDE

- X Waxed produce boxes



Depot Only Items: **Items marked with an X should be placed in the garbage. Styrofoam, plastic bags and glass are not acceptable in curbside recycling carts.**

Glass

- ✓ Clear or coloured glass jars

DO NOT INCLUDE

- X Glasses, dishes, cookware, window glass or mirrors
- X Ceramics
- Take beverage glass back to depot for deposit refund

Styrofoam™

- ✓ Clean meat trays, foam egg cartons, take out containers, cups & bowls
- ✓ Cushion packaging used to protect electronics
- ✓ Separate white from coloured

DO NOT INCLUDE

- X Foam peanuts, packing chips or noodles
- X Blue or pink foam board insulation
- X Shrink wrap for meats

Plastic Bags & Overwrap

- ✓ Bags for groceries, dry cleaning, bread, salad, frozen vegetable bags, outer bags for diaper, soft drinks, overwrap on mattresses, furniture & electronics

DO NOT INCLUDE

- X Biodegradable or compostable plastic bags
- X Plastic shipping envelopes

NEW

Other Flexible Packaging at Depots

Currently accepted at: Planet Earth Recycling, Columbia Bottle Depots, Boucherie Bottle depot

- ✓ Chip bags and snack wrappers
 - ✓ Cellophane
 - ✓ Zipper bags and pouches
 - ✓ Mesh bags and more.
- (As of January 1, 2019, these items will be ACCEPTED AT ALL DEPOTS)

For a full list visit
RecycleBC.ca/FlexiblePackaging



For more information visit regionaldistrict.com/recycle or contact the Regional Waste Reduction Office at 250-469-6250.