

Recycling Curbside - Most Commonly Mis-Recycled Materials



Recycling, at best, is tricky. There are so many items, so many places to take those items, so many rules, and so many exceptions to the rules. Can I put this in my curbside bin? If not, where does it go?

The good news is that you don't have to know the ins and outs of everything that could possibly be recycled. If you have something that you have never come across before and don't get it quite right, it isn't the end of the world – mis-sorting happens. A lot. So focus on the stuff you use on a regular basis and learn where it goes.

These are the top 3 items we find in curbside bins that don't belong:

1 Paper towels, napkins and Kleenex. Yes, they are made of paper, but the fibres in this type of paper are so short that they can't be recycled into anything. Even if these items are clean, they belong in the garbage (or compost bin if you have one) because they can't be recycled.

2 Paper padded envelopes and other paper laminates such as blister packages for medications, paper pet food bags (many have a plastic lining) and paper packaging around tea bags and instant oatmeal (also plastic lining in the bags). These are tricky because they are made of both paper and plastic or paper

and some other type of material. The problem is that the paper markets don't want these because they are half plastic and the plastic markets don't want them because they are half paper. These paper/plastic items belong in the garbage.

3 Plastic bags, overwrap and "crinkly" plastics. Hold on, what the heck is overwrap! And crinkly plastic?! It seems like everything these

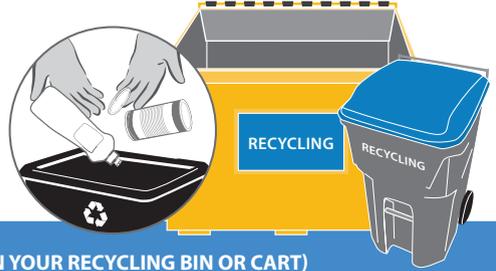
days is wrapped in some sort of plastic coating – industry calls them bags, overwrap, flexible plastics, and plastic laminates. Whatever they are called, the rule of thumb is if you can squish it into a ball in your hand (comfortably – yogurt containers can be squished but not easily), then it doesn't belong in your curbside bin. These can all be taken to a depot to get recycled. They are practically impossible to separate from the other materials in curbside bins. If a recycling depot is not a trip you usually make, better to put them in the garbage.

For more information on how to dispose of your waste, download our Waste Wise app or learn more online at www.kamloops.ca/wastewise.



Submitted by City of Kamloops

RECYCLING GUIDE



ACCEPTED ITEMS (PLACE THESE ITEMS LOOSE IN YOUR RECYCLING BIN OR CART)



DEPOT DROP-OFF ONLY (DO NOT PLACE IN BIN OR CART)



NOT ACCEPTED (DO NOT PLACE IN BIN OR CART)



(Use the Waste Wise app to find out how to properly dispose of unaccepted items)