









# Common Contamination at the Curb:

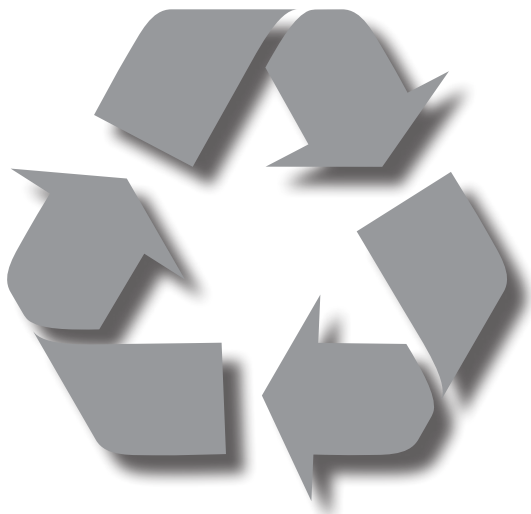
## *It can't go in the cart, so where should it go?*

Provided by your Recycling Block Captain, Spring/Summer 2014

Contamination at the curb? What's the big deal? **Recycling works best when done properly.** Let's all do our part to keep the recycle stream free of contamination to ensure an efficient recycling system. Check out the list of common contaminants below and how to dispose of them appropriately.

Contaminant	Why not at the curb?	Where should it go?
 <b>Napkins &amp; paper towels</b>	Paper can be recycled only so many times. Paper fiber gets shorter each time it's recycled; by the time it becomes towel or tissue, the fiber is short, making this the end of life phase in the recycling process.	Put in your home compost system or mixed organics (a.k.a. yard debris) cart (exception: please no bathroom paper towels in your cart). Obtain a cart or backyard bin from Republic Services at no additional charge.
 <b>Pet food bags</b>	Lined with plastic. Nearly impossible to separate the plastic from paper fiber for recycling.	Place in your trash cart.
 <b>Plastic bags</b>	Clog machinery at sorting facility. Therefore it needs to be collected separately.	The following stores have bins for recycling plastic bags: Fred Meyer on NW Kings, Grocery Outlet on NW 9th, Market of Choice on NW Circle, Safeway stores on NE Circle, SW 3rd & SW Philomath Blvd., WinCo on NW Kings.
 <b>Plastic clamshells</b>	No market for this low grade plastic (all clamshells regardless of # on bottom). End of life phase.	Place in your trash cart.
 <b>Styrofoam</b>	Breaks into tiny pieces when compacted in recycle truck. No local recycling facility; uneconomical to transport.	Styrofoam that has touched food (cups, plates, egg cartons, etc.) must go in trash. Packaging Styrofoam can be recycled for a small fee at First Alternative Co-op's Community Recycling Center (1007 SE 3rd St.; 541-753-3115).
 <b>Prescription bottles</b>	No markets currently exist for amber-colored plastic.	Either place in your trash cart or ask your pharmacy if they refill bottles.
 <b>Clothing</b>	Clothing and fabric are not part of the curbside recycling program.	The Corvallis-Area ReUse Directory ( <a href="http://tiny.cc/reusedirectory">http://tiny.cc/reusedirectory</a> ) lists clothing donation sites. Clothing only suitable for rags (if clean) can be given to Goodwill or in labeled Gaia Movement green collection boxes around town (e.g. Clayton's Auto Repair, Auto Tech, Self Service Laundry, Corvallis Battery, etc.).
 <b>Food residue</b>	Food residue inside containers contaminates commingled recycling (e.g. yogurt spilling onto paper) and leads to mold and germs. Always rinse or wipe out containers so no food will spill onto other recyclable materials in the cart.	Rinse and recycle to remove food residue. If rinsing is not possible, hold onto the container until it can be rinsed and then recycle.

## You can be a Recycling Block Captain too!



Distribute recycling info to your neighbors 4 times per year.

- You define your neighborhood size and location.
- Handouts are provided by the Corvallis Sustainability Coalition and Republic Services.

Visit **<http://tiny.cc/wpatcapt>**  
for details, a map of existing neighborhoods and to sign-up!