



Recycle Right

Minimize Recycling Contamination to Maximize Recycling Opportunities



RECYCLE SASKATCHEWAN

An important part of recycling right is avoiding contamination. Contamination occurs when inappropriate materials or garbage are mixed with recyclable materials. Why does this happen? Recycling can be complicated — sometimes there is confusion as to whether an item is appropriate for a specific recycling system. Adding an item in the hope that it may be recycled [also called ‘wish-cycling’], is often the cause of contamination. Contamination also occurs when garbage is placed in recycling containers.

What happens when recycling materials are contaminated? In some cases, the contaminants can be removed, but this is not always easy. Sorting and removing inappropriate material results in delays, may decrease the value of the material to be recycled, and increases recycling costs. If the contamination level is significant, the material can no longer be recycled and must be sent to a landfill. This adds unnecessary items to our landfills and disrupts the

“Recycling can be complicated — sometimes there is confusion as to whether an item is appropriate for a specific recycling system.”

recycling chain by preventing the recovery of valuable materials that could be put back into the manufacturing system, preserving our natural resources.

Another concern of recycling contamination is the risk to employees of recycling centres, material recovery facilities (MRFs), and landfills. Certain contaminants pose a health and safety risk to collection and sorting staff. Some may be hazardous or can be extremely dangerous when subjected to the heat and pressure common in recycling processes. Manually sorting through materials, such as broken glass, nails, and sharp metal, also poses a serious risk. Biohazards, such as rotting food waste, used diapers, animal feces, and

toxic and corrosive products are significant problems for most recycling systems.

So how do we avoid recycling contamination and recycle right? Recycle Saskatchewan member organizations are here to help. Members manage end-of-life programs for the recycling and/or proper disposal of many materials. These programs are funded by responsible industries and in many cases, but not all, the cost is recuperated from consumers in the form of Environmental Handling Fees, or EHF. These fees are not a tax, nor are they a refundable deposit. An EHF is based on the actual cost to recycle the material and factors in the material’s salvage value.

Here are some tips to recycle right from Recycle Saskatchewan member organizations.

Multi Material Stewardship Western (MMSW)

www.mmsk.ca/recycle

What Products: Household waste packaging and paper.

Where: Check out the MMSW website for details.

Recycle Right: Correctly sort materials and include only what is accepted by the residential recycling program in your area.

Avoid Contamination: Do not include material that is not accepted by the program, material tied in a plastic bag, or material that has contents remaining or is soiled.



#RecyclingReminder

Don't strike out.
Keep hazardous material out of your recycling.





Tire Stewardship of Saskatchewan (TSS)

www.tssk.ca



What Products: Tires.

Where: Tires can be recycled by dropping them off at participating tire retailer locations.

Recycle Right: A maximum of 10 tires can be dropped off for recycling by one individual. If you have more than 10 tires, please contact TSS.

Avoid Contamination: Tires should be rimless and free of any garbage or foreign materials.

Saskatchewan Association for Resource Recovery Corp (SARRC)

www.usedoilrecyclingsk.com

What Products: Used oil, oil filters, antifreeze and containers for used oil, antifreeze and diesel exhaust fluid. These can be recycled into new oil, antifreeze, and marketable plastic.

Where: Check out the SARRC website for details.

Recycle Right: Proper sorting can ensure that these recyclable materials are returned to their best use. For oil and antifreeze, the biggest problem is mixing these fluids in the

same container. Once antifreeze is mixed with oil, the recoverable glycol in the antifreeze is often burnt off by the re-refining process, eliminating its potential to be reused.

Avoid Contamination: Keep a separate drum or container for used antifreeze and ensure oil and antifreeze are not accidentally mixed during pick-ups. Keep clean plastics, like windshield washer fluid containers (which can be recycled in many residential recycling programs), separate from oily plastics. Oily plastics require special washing and handling to recycle, which increases costs.



Materials Diverted from Saskatchewan Landfills from 2015-2019

AGRICULTURAL PACKAGING

Approximately **3.5 million kilograms** of pesticide and fertilizer containers — more than **3,500 tonnes** of grain bags (grain bag program began in 2018).



BEVERAGE CONTAINERS

More than **2.1 billion** containers.



ELECTRONICS

More than **12,000 tonnes**.



HOUSEHOLD PACKAGING AND PAPER

More than **162,000 tonnes** (from program operation start in 2016).

PAINT

More than **2.5 million litres** of household paint and **462 tonnes** of paint cans and pails.



TIRES

More than **104,000 tonnes** of tires.



OIL AND ANTIFREEZE MATERIALS

More than **92 million litres** of oil, more than **1.2 million litres** of antifreeze, and more than **8,600 tonnes** of oil filters and plastic containers for oil/antifreeze.



Product Care Association (PCA)

www.productcare.org/province/saskatchewan

What Products: Household paints including water-based or oil-based paint, aerosol paint, and their containers. For further details on what is accepted and what is not, visit the Product Care website.

Where: Leftover paint can be dropped off at any SARCAN depot, RONA, or Lowe’s store, and at some municipal household hazardous waste (HHW) events.

Recycle Right: Leftover paint should be stored in a location that is protected from the weather and must be returned in its original sealed container with the original label attached. All SARCAN depots have a shelf of usable leftover paint that is available to the public free of charge. Managing leftover paint keeps it out of landfills or being dumped on the ground or into water systems.

Avoid Contamination: Do not mix different types of paints together or with any other product as this will prevent the paint from being recyclable.

Electronic Product Recycling Association/Recycle My Electronics (EPRA)

www.recyclemyelectronics.ca/sk



What Products: Most consumer electronics, and items that connect to them, can be recycled including earbuds, headphones, cables, and cords. Check the Recycle My Electronics website for a complete list. Electronics are full of material such as metals, plastic and glass that can be recycled many times.

Where: Drop off locations can be found on the Recycle My Electronics website by typing in your postal code.

Recycle Right: Once a device is at the end of its useful life, it should be dropped off at a collection location for recycling.

The quicker the materials are returned to the manufacturing supply chain to be used in new items, the less reliant we are on extracting raw material from the earth. The Recycle My Electronics network of drop-off locations is a safe and secure way of recycling electronics. Collectors and processors do not turn on devices nor reuse any of the parts in other devices.

Avoid Contamination: Contamination occurs when electronic materials are placed in residential recycling bins or garbage bins. The facility where your residential recycling bin material is processed likely does not have the capacity to pull electronics from its processing stream. Electronics do not belong in the landfill as they don’t really breakdown and some have substances of concern that may end up in the environment.

Cleanfarms

www.cleanfarms.ca

What Products: Grain bags.

Where: Check out the CleanFarms website for details.

Recycle Right: Grain bags should be tightly rolled with a mechanical grain bag roller and secured with twine.

Avoid Contamination: Grain bags need to be as clean as possible with care taken to

PLUGGED LANDFILLS?

WHY OUR BAGS ARE THE BEST FOR SUSTAINABILITY AND THE ENVIRONMENT

1 Kwik BagIt Bag has the same volume as 3 Garbage Bags!

DID YOU KNOW...

It can take up to **100 YEARS** for plastic bags to **DECOMPOSE**

The bags **DO NOT** biodegrade.

They break down in to small **TOXIC** fragments that **BLEED** throughout our environment and Eco-systems...

THEN WHY ARE WE STILL USING THEM?

ZERO PLASTIC INITIATIVE PROGRAM

CHECK IT OUT:

↩ kwikbagit.com/about-our-bags ↩

2019 WINNER USCC COMPOSTING CHALLENGE - PHOENIX ARIZONA



remove as much organic material (spoilage, dirt, etc.) before or during rolling. This ensures that grain bags can be recycled into new materials like plastic bags. Items like twine, netting, bale wrap or feed or seed bags are generally not accepted at grain bag collection sites. Visit www.cleanfarms.ca to find out if there are options for these items.

SARCAN

www.sarcana.ca



What Products: Non-refillable, ready-to-serve beverage containers.

Where: SARCAN Recycling Depots are located in 65 Saskatchewan communities. Check out the SARCAN website for details.

Recycle Right: Bring empty containers to any of the 73 SARCAN Recycling Depots.

Avoid Contamination: The most common items brought in to SARCAN that are not accepted are non-beverage household packaging and paper. SARCAN also does not accept foil pouches, bag-in-a-box containers (wine, water), refillable water jugs (larger than five litres), products labeled as meal replacements or fortified liquid diet, baby juices, or any products packaged in either a frozen or non-frozen format, which requires one or more additives to transform it into a ready-to-serve drink (frozen juice concentrates, etc.).

We all have a role to play to recycle right. With a few simple steps, we can directly contribute to the success of recycling programs, the safety of individuals working in recycling systems, and the life span of our landfills. Recycle Saskatchewan members are here to assist municipalities and their residents to recycle right. Please reach out should you have any questions or would like to discuss opportunities to divert materials from your landfills. www.recyclesaskatchewan.ca.

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www.skseniorsmechanism.ca

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