Wish-Cycling

Ever stood in front of your recycling cart trying to figure out if something should go in it? You're not sure whether it can be recycled but you hope it can, so you toss it in anyways.

This is Wish Cycling. The reality is, this practice can cause an entire load of good recyclables to become contaminated trash - *and no one wishes for that.*

These might be items that need to be recycled through other methods (ex: electronics) or you may think there is a component that is recyclable and someone at the recycling center will separate it or figure it out. *This is not true.*

Items received at recycling centers need to be easily sorted into glass, plastic, metal or paper/cardboard.

Recycling Plastic Bags and Film

Plastic bags tangle up and get stuck in recycling sorting equipment – which can shut down an entire recycling plant!

Keep plastic bags and film out of your recycling bin
Gather your plastic bags and plastic films separately (**stretchy plastics** like grocery, zip-lock and dry-cleaning bags, along with films around water bottles and paper products). Keep them clean and dry.

Bring into your local grocery store, Target or Walmart

Curbside recycling is not the only option

Not all recyclable items can go in your curbside container.

#1 Curbside: provided by your local hauler – ask for their guidelines

   Drop-off: provided by your town or municipality
   (check with your town for their recycling guidelines)

#2 Collection St. Croix County has collection events twice a year
   Events: for Tires, Appliances, Electronics and Hazardous Waste

#3 Take-back: programs at retail locations for recycling plastic bags, printer cartridges, light bulbs, batteries, electronics

#4 Mail-In or manufacturer's may offer programs to reclaim materials
   Re-claim: used in their products or packaging

Additional recycling information is found on our website:
www.sccwi.gov/Recycling

- Collection event dates and details for Appliance, Electronics, Tires and Hazardous Waste

- Recycling options for items NOT ACCEPTED curbside, go to: **A-Z Recycling & Disposal Guide**

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ST. CROIX COUNTY
Wisconsin
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RECYCLING GUIDELINES

Aluminum and Metal Cans
- Beverage and food cans, pet food cans, metal lids from jars
- NO foil or food trays (because of food residue)

Glass Bottles & Jars
- Food jars and beverage bottles
- Clear, brown and green
- NO windows, dishes, Pyrex, ceramics or light bulbs

Mixed Paper (clean/dry or it will mold)
- Newspaper, envelopes, magazines, catalogs, office paper, paperback and phone books
- Shredded Paper (put in paper bag, fold top, tape or staple closed, label "shredded paper")
- NO USED paper plates, napkins, tissues, cups, etc. (can be composted)

Corrugated Cardboard (break down and flatten)
- Food/baking boxes (remove plastic liners), paper bags, manila envelopes, file folders
- NO pizza boxes, detergent boxes, waxy frozen or refrigerated food boxes

Plastics #1-7
- Bottles, jugs, jars & tubs (put caps back on)
- NO styrofoam egg cartons, cups, plates or packaging material

People have good intentions, but RECYCLING RIGHT is just as important.

KEEP OUT of your CURBSIDE RECYCLING BIN:

- **NO Plastic Bags and Film** (the stretchy kind of plastic) bring to your local grocery store, Target or Walmart
- **NO Yard Waste** or **Food Waste** – organics can be composted but not recycled
- **NO Used Paper Products** – plates, napkins, etc.
- **NO Clothing** – shoes or textiles (donate)
- **NO Tanglers** – hoses, wire, cords, string of lights

Preparing Your Recyclables
- All containers need to be empty
- Rinse off food residue
- Labels do not have to be removed
- No need to crush cans or plastic bottles (small items are difficult to process)
- Put plastic caps back on bottles

Do not put recyclables in plastic bags – dispose of them loosely in the container.