



## **Recycle Right Program Frequently Asked Questions**

### **Why does the City organize a Recycle Right Program?**

Contaminated recycling threatens the sustainability of the City's recycling program by affecting the pricing Rumpke offers for recyclables. It also increases the risk of injury or damage to workers and equipment at recycling facilities. The program educates everyone in the community by improving residents' understanding of what to recycle.

### **Why wasn't my recycling container picked up?**

If your household received an "OOPS" tag on the handle of your recycling container, your container was not picked up to allow you to correct a contamination issue discovered by our curbside inspectors. The tag contains information about which items are contaminated. Once the issue is corrected, your container will be eligible for pickup on the next scheduled collection day.

If your container wasn't picked up and you did not receive an "OOPS" tag, please call Public Works at 937-428-4782 to inquire.

### **Why did I get an "OOPS" tag?**

An "OOPS" tag indicates that one of our curbside inspectors found contaminated items in your recycling container. The "OOPS" tag contains information about what items in your container are contaminated. Once the issue has been corrected, your container will be eligible for pickup on the next scheduled collection day.

### **If you're going to police my container, I'll just stop recycling all together!**

The rules change! It can be tough. We recognize there may be items you believed were recyclable. The program is not policing recycling but rather helping to educate everyone in the community on what is and is not accepted. Recycling correctly is essential and a direct, personal contribution everyone can take pride in.

Below are some key recycling benefits:

- reducing the amount of waste sent to landfills
- conserving water and other valuable resources
- preventing pollution by reducing the need to collect new raw materials
- saving and reducing energy
- supporting American manufacturing through job creation and technology development

### **What can I do with plastic bags?**

Plastic bags are often mistakenly placed in recycling. Unfortunately, these items can damage equipment at the processing facility. The best place for recycling plastic bags is often local retail stores like Kroger. If you cannot take the plastic bags to a retailer, please bundle them and place them in your trash container. Visit [plasticfilmrecycling.org](http://plasticfilmrecycling.org) to find a list of plastic film return locations by zip code.

### **How do I recycle shredded paper?**

Centerville's Recycling Program allows shredded paper in a plastic bag; this is the only exception to the no plastic bag rule. This exception exists because bags of shredded paper are manually sorted at the processing facility. Regular office paper and mail can be recycled without being shredded in your container (if it doesn't contain sensitive information). You can also look for shredding events that take place throughout the City.

### **Why can't I bag my recyclable material? I'm afraid my container will get dirty.**

If you recycle correctly by emptying all containers, bottles, cans, etc. of food and liquid, the container should remain clean and odor free. If plastic and garbage bags are placed in recycling containers, the recyclables may be perceived as garbage. Any garbage or contamination that arrives at the recycling facility will be sent to the landfill, where the City incurs charges, which can drive up program costs. Clean, dry and bag-free recycling is the highest priority.

**Please call the City of Centerville Public Works at 937-428-4782 or [emailpublicworks@centervilleohio.gov](mailto:emailpublicworks@centervilleohio.gov) with additional questions.**