



New Cart Contamination Inspections

Beginning February 1, 2023, we will be inspecting recycling, food and yard waste carts and strictly enforcing contamination limits. Carts with 10% or more contamination will be tagged, will not be emptied, and charges may apply.

What is contamination?

Contamination happens when items are put in recycling carts that do not belong. For instance, food and liquid contaminate clean and dry paper in the recycling cart. Plastic bags and polystyrene foam are other examples of common contaminants.

What happens if my cart is contaminated?

1. If the cart has 10% or more contamination, an inspector from Republic Services will put a tag on the cart listing the main contaminants (if you live in a house) or send a letter to the property manager (for apartment/condo residents). The driver will not empty the cart that day.
2. The homeowner or property manager will be given a choice to either remove the contaminants from the cart or have the cart emptied and be charged for extra trash.
 - if the contaminants are removed, the cart will be collected on the next regular recycling day at no charge.
 - if the contaminants are NOT removed, the cart will be collected on the next regular trash day and charged for extra trash.
3. Continued instances of contamination may result in contamination fees and, in extreme cases, removal of recycling services.

Why do we need to reduce contamination?

Contamination increases system costs and damages the marketability of recycled products. The City of Kent and Republic Services are partnering to reduce contamination by educating customers about what belongs in the recycling carts.

These items can **always** be placed inside your blue recycling cart:



Plastic Bottles,
Jugs & Tubs



Tin/Metal Cans



Paper



Cardboard



Glass Bottles/Jars



Plastic Bags



Plastic Film/Wrap



Polystyrene Foam



Food Scraps



Yard Waste

These items can **never** be placed inside your blue recycling cart:

Get a Head Start

Visit RecyclingSimplified.com to learn what goes in your recycling cart, or email recyclinginfo@RepublicServices.com for more information.



Sustainability in Action