

Empty. Clean. Dry.

The New Way to Recycle



Reduce. Reuse. Recycle. Anyone growing up in the 1970s, '80s or '90s learned the three Rs of recycling in school. We were taught to recycle everything we could. We added recycling containers to our homes, our offices and classrooms, and recycling became a part of our culture.

In the 40 years since recycling was introduced, Americans recycle nearly 87 million tons per year. That means each of us recycles approximately 1.5 pounds per day! However, the recycling model we all grew up with is changing, and we have to change with it.

Trying to recycle unclean or unrecyclable material increases sorting time and slows down the recycling process, damages the facility's equipment and causes contaminants in the bales of clean recyclables, which decreases the value of the items. When this occurs, we have to put the entire load of recyclables into our landfills, due to the contamination.

Empty means making sure there is no food or product residue. Make sure all of that goes into the trash or down the drain as part of the empty process.

Clean means that empty recyclable containers should be rinsed. So, no mustard in the mustard containers or leftover ketchup in the ketchup bottles. If you cannot get a container completely clean, it is best to put it into the trash so as not to contaminate the rest of your recycling material and the overall process.

Dry means letting containers dry before placing them in your blue cart, so that the paper and cardboard does not get wet. Wet or soiled paper and cardboard cannot be recycled.

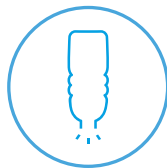
By practicing **Empty. Clean. Dry.** with our families, we can ensure the recycling materials leaving our homes are, in fact, recyclable. Together, we are caretakers of our planet.



EMPTY.



CLEAN.



DRY.

Please make sure your recyclables are **empty, clean and dry** before placing them in your recycling cart.



REPUBLIC
SERVICES

Sustainability in Action

What Can Be Recycled?



Recyclable

These items can always be placed inside your recycling cart



Paper

Paper (staples OK)
Newspaper
Envelopes
Junk mail
Phone books
Brochures
Magazines



Cardboard

Ream wrappers
File folders
Poster board
Frozen food boxes
Cardboard boxes
Milk cartons



Plastic

Water bottles
Take-out containers
Soda bottles



Metal

Aluminum
beverage cans
Food cans



Glass

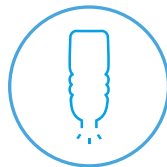
Bottles (clear,
green and brown)
Jars



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CLEAN.



DRY.

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Household Hazardous Waste

These items should never be mixed with regular recycling or trash and require special handling. They can be dropped off at the Orange County Household Hazardous Waste Center located at 17121 Nichols Lane in Huntington Beach at gate #6. Please see [Oclandfills.com/hazardous-waste](https://oclandfills.com/hazardous-waste) for more information.



Curly bulbs
Fluorescent tubes
Cleaning products and solvents
Computers, electronics and cellphones

Paint
Hazardous waste
Batteries
Sharps and needles

Pesticides
Automotive fluids
Pool chemicals

Visit RepublicServices.com/HuntingtonBeachCA for more information.