

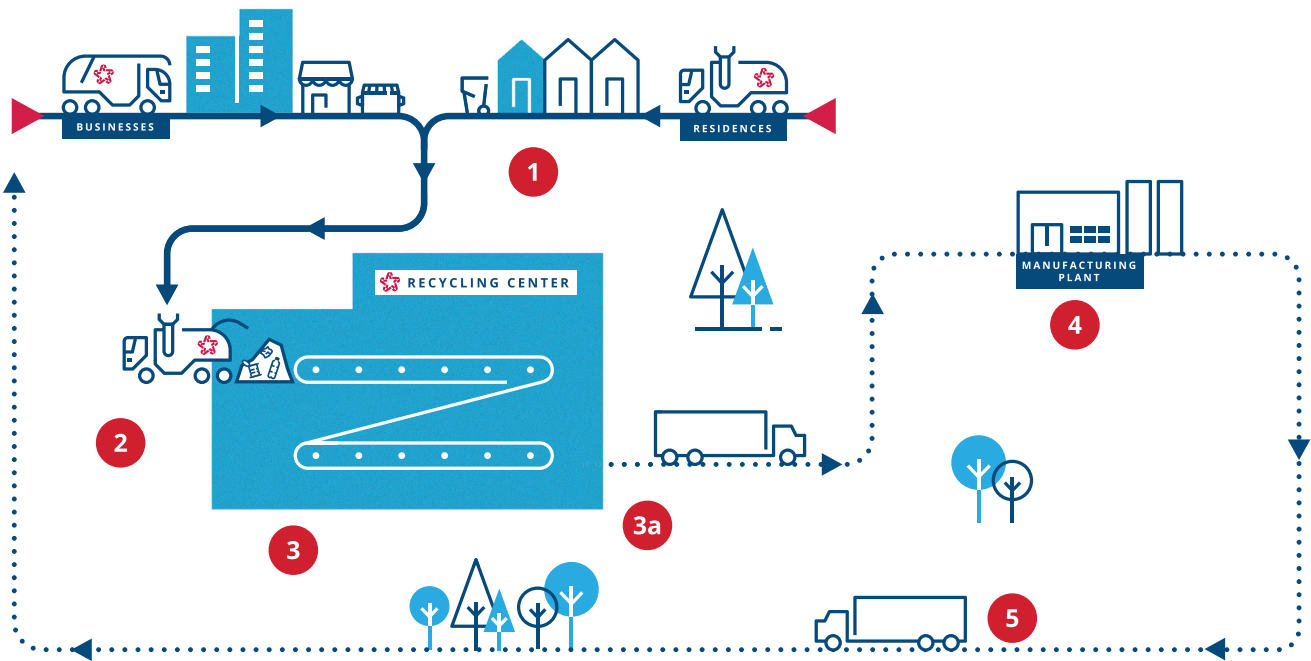
Residential Recycling & Waste Service Newsletter

Serving Rodeo

1ST QUARTER 2025

The Recycling Process: From Curbside to New Products

Have you ever wondered what happens to your recyclables after they’re picked up from the curb? Let’s take a journey through the recycling process.



1. **Curbside collection:** A recycling truck collects recyclables from your cart at home.
2. **Sorting facility:** Recyclables are transported to the West County Integrated Resource Recovery Facility (IRRF) in Richmond, where they are sorted by material type: paper, glass, metal and plastic.
3. **Processing:** At the IRRF, materials are sorted using a combination of manual and technological processes, such as optical scanners, magnets, eddy currents and AI robots.
3a. Sorted materials are then baled into large cubes and delivered or shipped to mills and manufacturers.
4. **Manufacturing:** The recycled materials are then reprocessed to create new products – saving resources and energy.
5. **Market and purchase:** The recycled products then make their way back to retail and businesses that sell those newly produced items made from recycled material, completing the recycling loop.

Bags to Bins Guide

Recycling

Keep your empty, clean and dry recyclables loose, and avoid using a bag. If a bag is required, only paper bags and clear plastic bags are accepted. Why? If recyclables make it to our recycling facility in a non-clear plastic bag, sorters are unable to tell what’s inside, and the whole load may be treated as trash.

Organics

Organics should be loose, in a BPI-certified compostable bag or paper bag only. **Why?** Your organic material is brought to our composting facility in Richmond, where it is broken down into a nutrient-rich soil. Plastic bags do not break down in this process and diminish the quality of the compost created. BPI-certified compostable bags and paper bags are both made out of natural materials that more readily break down in the composting process.

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<ul style="list-style-type: none">✓ No Bag✓ Clear Plastic Bag✓ Paper Bag	 <small>* BPI-certified compostable bags or paper bag only</small>	

