

# TOP 10 THINGS YOU SHOULD KNOW ABOUT RECYCLING at OHIO STATE

## 1. Food

Food scraps can contaminate recyclable materials. Rinse or scrape food remnants off recyclable items before placing them in recycling bins.

## 2. Plastic bags

Plastic bags get caught in the recycling facility sorting equipment, causing expensive time delays and fixes. Recycle plastic bags at your local grocery store.

## 3. Recycling symbol and numbers

The recycling symbol and number printed on plastics indicates what type of plastic the item is made of but **does not** guarantee the item can be recycled. Ohio State does not recycle plastics #3–#7, unless the plastic is bottle-shaped.

## 4. Compostable products

Compostable products **should not** be put into the recycling bins. If composting bins unavailable, the compostable waste should go into the trash.

## 5. Plastics and plastic bottles

All plastics in a bottle-shape (having a narrower mouth than body) can be recycled. Most non-bottle-shaped plastics, including plastic plates, cups, utensils, and straws are not recyclable.

## 6. Napkins, paper towels, tissues, etc.

Napkins, paper towels, tissues, etc., cannot be recycled. Often, these items can be composted, but if compost bins are unavailable, please discard them into the trash.

## 7. Styrofoam

Egg cartons, meat trays, to-go containers, cups or any Styrofoam previously in contact with food must go into the trash. Packaging Styrofoam is not recyclable.

## 8. Paper coffee cups

Most paper coffee cups contain a coating for insulation and waterproofing, which makes them difficult to be recycled. Please dispose of your cup in the trash. (Cardboard sleeves can be removed and placed into the recycling bins.)

## 9. For recycling everyday standard products

If an item is not listed or pictured on the recycling bins, it is unlikely that the item can be recycled at Ohio State.

If you have questions, visit [footprint.osu.edu/recycling](http://footprint.osu.edu/recycling) or contact us at [recycle@osu.edu](mailto:recycle@osu.edu)

## 10. Location, location, location

What can be recycled varies widely from place to place. Just because something can be recycled in one location does not necessarily mean it can be recycled at Ohio State, so be sure to follow the recycling guidelines at your location.