

# KEEP YOUR RECYCLABLES FREE OF FRIGHT THIS HALLOWEEN

THE IMPORTANCE OF PROPER RECYCLING: AVOIDING A NIGHTMARE

## SCENARIO

RECYCLING IS CRUCIALLY IMPORTANT FOR OUR ENVIRONMENT, BUT IT CAN BECOME A NIGHTMARE IF NOT EXECUTED PROPERLY. IMAGINE WALKING THROUGH A DARK AND FOGGY CEMETERY – THAT'S HOW SCARY WASTING RECYCLABLES CAN BE. TO AVOID THIS, IT IS IMPORTANT TO RECYCLE ONLY EMPTY, CLEAN, AND DRY MATERIALS, SO THAT THEY CAN BE REMANUFACTURED INTO NEW PRODUCTS, JUST LIKE FRANKENSTEIN. WHEN RECYCLABLES ARE MIXED WITH TRASH, FOOD, AND LIQUIDS, THEIR VALUE DECREASES AFTER THEY HAVE BEEN SORTED BY MACHINES AND HUMAN HANDS. STICKY MATERIALS, IN PARTICULAR, CAN CAUSE MAJOR PROBLEMS FOR THOSE SORTING THROUGH THEM. MACHINES MAY NOT MIND, BUT THEY CAN GET STUCK TOGETHER, LEADING TO A GROTESQUE MESS THAT NO ONE WANTS TO DEAL WITH.



**OSS**  
OTTAWA SANDUSKY SENECA  
**SOLID WASTE DISTRICT**

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MATERIALS THAT ARE ON THE "DO NOT RECYCLE" LIST CAN ALSO CAUSE CONTAMINATION OF OTHER GOOD MATERIAL STREAMS, SUCH AS LOOSE CAPS AND SMALL ITEMS LESS THAN TWO INCHES. THESE SMALL ITEMS CAN STICK TO PAPER AND PLASTIC, CAUSING CONTAMINATION. SIMILARLY, NON-STICKY ITEMS CAN FALL OUT WITH GLASS. IN BOTH CASES, SMALL ITEMS CAN CAUSE SIGNIFICANT CONTAMINATION ISSUES.

CERTAIN MATERIALS, SUCH AS CLOTHING, CORDS, HOSES, AND PLASTIC FILMS, CAN EVEN CAUSE DAMAGE TO RECYCLING SORTING EQUIPMENT, CREATING A SCARY SITUATION FOR WORKERS. LARGE ITEMS LIKE TOILET SEATS, BOWLING BALLS, AND SCRAP METAL CAN ALSO JAM THE EQUIPMENT OR EVEN HARM WORKERS. IT'S IMPORTANT TO AVOID THIS HORROR SHOW AT THE RECYCLING CENTER BY BEING MINDFUL OF WHAT IS BEING PUT INTO THE RECYCLING BIN.

WHILE YOUR SUSTAINABLE MATERIALS MAY FEEL LIKE A BEAST TO MANAGE, ADDING PLASTIC BAGS TO THE MIX ONLY WORSENS THE PROBLEM. AT MATERIAL RECOVERY FACILITIES, TRASH BAGS ARE REMOVED FROM THE RECYCLING PROCESS DURING THE "PRE-SORT" STAGE. BY STORING RECYCLABLES IN A DESIGNATED BIN UNTIL PICKUP OR DROP-OFF, YOU CAN AVOID THE NEED FOR BAGS ALTOGETHER AND REDUCE PLASTIC WASTE. SHOULD YOUR BIN BECOME SOILED, SIMPLY WASH IT OUT WITH SOAP AND WATER. IF YOU MUST USE PLASTIC FOR TRANSPORTATION, MAKE SURE TO EMPTY RECYCLABLES DIRECTLY INTO THE DROP-OFF BIN TO AVOID ANY CONTAMINATION OR TANGLERS. TANGLERS, LIKE PLASTIC BAGS AND FILMS, CAN DAMAGE THE RECYCLING EQUIPMENT AND CAUSE DELAYS IN THE SORTING PROCESS. SAVE YOURSELF TIME AND MONEY BY DISPOSING OF YOUR WASTE PROPERLY AND AVOIDING TANGLERS.



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RECYCLING PLASTIC BAGS IS POSSIBLE THROUGH CERTAIN MEANS, SUCH AS PLACING THEM IN A FILM-ONLY BIN. HOWEVER, THEY SHOULD NOT BE PLACED IN RECYCLING TOTES OR LARGE DUMPSTERS. SOME BUSINESSES LIKE KROGER, LOWES, WAL-MART AND MORE OFFER PLASTIC BAG RECYCLING TO CUSTOMERS. TO LEARN MORE ABOUT WHICH MATERIALS CAN BE RECYCLED AND WHERE TO TAKE THEM, VISIT [RECYCLEOSS.ORG](http://RECYCLEOSS.ORG).

REMEMBER TO SEPARATE EMPTY AND FOOD-FREE PAPER CARTONS, STEEL AND ALUMINUM CANS, AND GLASS, PLASTIC AND METAL BOTTLES ALONG WITH OFFICE AND NEWSPAPER, MAGAZINES AND CARDBOARD BOXES WHEN RECYCLING. THESE MATERIALS CAN BE PLACED INTO THE BINS TOGETHER, BUT MAKE SURE TO BREAK DOWN ALL CARDBOARD/PAPERBOARD BOXES TO CONSERVE SPACE IN THE RECYCLE BINS.



**OSS**  
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