

Keep it loose

Do not bag recyclables or compost

In Thurston County, we do our part to recycle, but certain actions actually hurt more than they help. If you put recyclables in plastic bags and then toss them in the curbside bin, your items won't get recycled. If they do end up at the recycling facility, plastic bags clog up the machines and bring the whole process to a grinding halt.

Even paper bags and boxes should be emptied before going in your bin. So don't bag or box your recyclables – just toss them loose into the bin.

Kitchen food scraps should be loose too!

That's right; there are no bags of any kind accepted in the curbside food and yard waste program. All materials must be completely loose inside your curbside food and yard waste bin. This is tricky because some bags are labeled as compostable, but none are compatible with our local commercial composting facility.

What can we do with plastic bags and wrap?

Something to keep in mind...and out of your recycling bin: loose plastic bags and plastic film are also a big no-go for the recycling stream.



Empty all contents before placing in the cart. Do not put recyclables inside anything, including paper bags and boxes.

Anything that's thin, stretchy, and plastic – like the wrapping on paper towel rolls – causes major problems with recycling equipment and should not be placed in your curbside bin.

Instead, you can reuse plastic bags or bundle them with your film and take it all back to participating retailers for specialized recycling. So to wrap it all up: simply keep plastic bags and film out of your recycling bin.



Find the nearest drop-off location for plastic bags, film, and wrap: <https://bagandfilmrecycling.org/>

Mix it up

Recycling at the Waste & Recovery Center just got easier

We get it — sometimes there's just not enough room to put all your recyclables in the curbside cart. That's why overflow recycling can be taken for free to the Waste and Recovery Center (WARC) in Lacey or the drop-box facilities in Rainier and Rochester.

Until recently, recyclables at the WARC needed to be separated by each type of material. We're happy to announce that recycling just got easier!

We still require everyone to separate glass and cardboard, but now you can mix your plastic containers, metal cans, and paper in the same bin. Just be sure to keep everything empty, clean, and dry.



Where Do I Take My...?

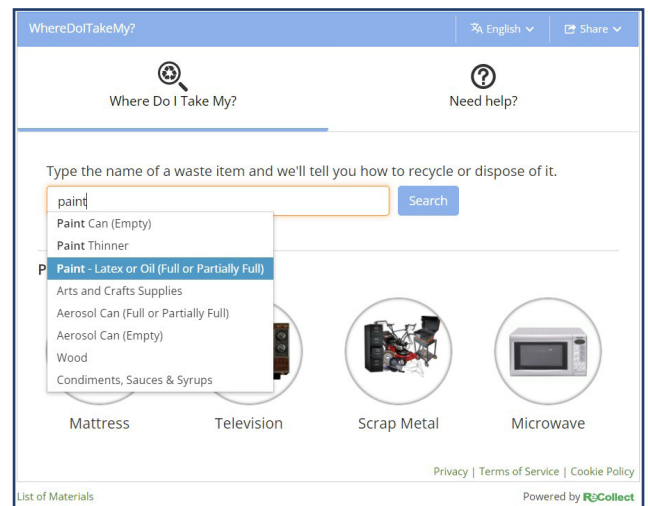
Search hundreds of materials online

If you're unsure if something can be recycled, check out the county's "Where Do I Take My?" directory at [WhereDoITakeMy.org](https://www.thurstoncountywa.gov/wheretotake). It has hundreds of listings for places to donate, recycle, and dispose of items.

Call or get directions immediately

You can click for directions to a drop-off location from your computer or mobile device. You can even click to call or email them if you need to confirm details.

Try it now by scanning this QR code with your phone!



Questions?

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