

WHAT IS CONTAMINATION?

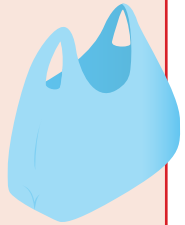
Contamination happens when:

- The **WRONG ITEMS** are placed in the recycling bin; **OR**
- The **RIGHT ITEMS** are not prepared correctly.



WRONG!

- **ALL PLASTIC BAGS** – Take to a grocery store for recycling or donate to **Harvest Hope Food Bank** for reuse.
- **FOODS AND LIQUIDS**
- **RECYCLING'S DIRTY DOZEN** – Please visit des.sc.gov/recyclerightsc to learn more.



RIGHT!

- **ACCEPTABLE RECYCLABLES** – Please visit des.sc.gov/recycleheresc to find out which recyclables are accepted in your community.
- **CLEAN AND DRY** – Empty and rinse bottles and cans. Keep newspaper, cardboard and other papers dry.



SC DEPARTMENT of
**ENVIRONMENTAL
SERVICES**

1-800-768-7348 des.sc.gov/recycle

PREVENT CONTAMINATION

BE CART SMART!

Have you ever placed items in the recycling bin without being certain that they can be recycled? ***DON'T DO IT!***

PROBLEM ITEMS INCLUDE:

- **Take-out food containers**
- **Food wrappers** (e.g., nuts, granola, chip bags)
- **Sharps** (e.g., needles, syringes)
- **Plastic bags**
- **Tanglers** (e.g., hoses, cords, string lights)
- **Shredded paper**
- **Drinking glasses**
- **Ceramics**

REDUCE SINGLE USE!

Here are some ways to eliminate wasteful single-use products.



Bottled Water

**TRY REUSABLE
WATER BOTTLES.**



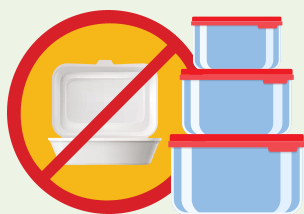
Paper Coffee Cups

**TRY REUSABLE
COFFEE MUGS.**



Plastic & Paper Bags

**TRY REUSABLE
BAGS & TOTES.**



Styrofoam Containers

**TRY STURDY FOOD
CONTAINERS.**



**Plastic Utensils
& Paper Napkins**

**TRY DURABLE
UTENSILS & CLOTH
NAPKINS.**