

A QUICK LOOK INTO


Global Recycling Day

How can we do our part? →



Think Upstream

- **Reduce the amount of waste that you produce in the first place.** Recycling markets are volatile and not particularly transparent to an average consumer. Even if the material is said to be recycled by your municipality, it's entirely possible that it doesn't have a current end-user. That's why the best solution is to opt for zero waste products or avoid purchasing unnecessary products wherever possible.
- Close the loop and buy recycled products! In order for recycling to be a feasible solution to waste production, manufacturers need to **commit to using recycled material to make new products.** You can help create demand by **purchasing products with verified recycled content.**



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Don't Wishcycle


- **It can be hard to know what's actually recyclable.** Wishcycling – recycling anything that you think should be recycled – does more harm than good. These items can contaminate the loads of material that are actually recyclable, sending it all to the landfill instead.
- To **avoid wishcycling, make sure you are up to date on your municipalities recycling policies.** Accepted recyclables can vary by jurisdiction, but luckily there are plenty of online guides provided by cities to help you determine which materials can go in your blue bin.



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Purchase Recycling-Friendly Products

- Before purchasing plastic packaging, **opt for options with paper or compostable packaging.** Paper packaging is more likely to be recycled if kept clean and dry in your recycling bin and has a lower carbon footprint than plastics. Additionally, if it ends up being soiled during use, it can be municipally composted.
- Some plastics are more durable and have a higher end-use value than others. **When purchasing products with plastic, stay away from cheaper plastics like film and plastics number 3-6, which are not consistently recycled.** Plastics that are commonly recycled are numbers 1 and 2, which typically are found as beverage bottles and food containers.



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Examples of items that cannot be recycled in most jurisdictions:

- Cardboard covered in grease or food product (Soiled cardboard or paper products, like pizza boxes, should always be composted!)
- Plastic-coated paper cups (such as coffee cups)
- Compostable plastics cannot be recycled because they are built to break down! Check out the number on the bottom of your plastics – if it has a “7” or “PLA,” it should always go in the compost.

Examples of items that vary by jurisdiction:

- Plastic-coated cartons (Tetra-Pak brand or similar)
- Jars and containers that are not rinsed clean

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For additional resources on recycling in California, check out CalRecycle's recycling at:

<https://www.calrecycle.ca.gov/Recycle/>



