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As of 2020, the national contamination rate is **25% for all MRFs**, 27% for single stream MRFs like ECUA's, and 18% for dual stream MRFs.

Recycling Tips

1. The best place to start is at home. Know what recycling materials are accepted at the ECUA Materials Recycling Facility (MRF). It's important to understand not all recycling facilities are the same. Know what is processed locally.
2. Avoid "wish cycling." Wish cycling happens when you put something in the recycling bin with the hopes it will be recycled. Unfortunately, many materials do not belong in curbside recycling. Learn what can go in your recycling container.
3. Properly dispose of masks, wipes, and gloves. Remember to dispose of gloves, masks, and wipes properly in the trash. These items are not recyclable, nor should they be flushed or tossed on the ground for someone else to pick up.
4. Rinse your recyclables. For the best results, rinse your empty cans, bottles, and cartons of food and liquid waste. Contaminated recyclables are difficult to recycle and may contaminate other items waiting to be recycled.
5. Keep electronics and batteries out of the recycling stream – and the trash collection. Electronic waste and batteries do not belong in your curbside trash or recycling container. When improperly disposed of, these materials can start fires in recycling facilities and landfills.

6. Do not bag your recyclables. Local curbside recycling programs do not require recyclables to be bagged. Bagged recyclables also present challenges when brought to the ECUA MRF and often get tangled in sorting equipment.
7. Reduce. Consider purchasing smaller amounts of food or fresh items with less packaging.
8. Reuse. Choose reusable items when possible.

Recycling

Transforming everyday garbage into useful items for tomorrow is one tried-and-true method of conserving our environment.

Emerald Coast Utilities Authority (ECUA) utilizes the latest recycling technology called “single-stream” recycling. It’s the future for responsible resource conservation and an important step toward meeting the State of Florida’s recycling goals.

Single-stream recycling makes it almost as easy to use the recycling bin as it is to use the trash can, so for the previously unconverted, there’s no excuse for not recycling.

Single-stream recycling is an ECUA system, which all recyclables, including; newspaper, cardboard, plastic, aluminum, junk mail, etc., are placed in a single bin or cart for recycling. These recyclables are collected curbside and taken to a Materials Recovery Facility (MRF) to be sorted into various commodity streams for sale to markets, which can be used in the manufacture of new products.

The impetus for adopting single-stream is twofold: a belief that the added convenience of not needing to sort would encourage residents to participate in the curbside recycling program, and the desire to save money by reduced sanitation collection costs.

While recycling collections are not required, it’s important that only acceptable items be placed in the designated recycling can.

Benefits:

- Energy: It takes less energy to produce items from recycled materials than from raw materials.

- Economic Development: Recycling helps to create new, well-paying jobs in the recycling and manufacturing industries, locally and nationally.
- Landfills: Fewer landfills will be needed in the future and recycling extends the life of existing landfills.

Curbside Recycling:

Put these items in your gray recycling container for easy weekly pick up by your sanitation crew.



Glass
any color



Paper
newspapers & inserts



Cardboard
cardboard, boxboard (cereal, cake & cracker boxes, etc.)



Plastic
plastic bottles, plastics No. 1 & 2, plastic milk jugs: 2-Liters



Metal
tin and steel cans, lids, pots, pans, cookie sheets, pet food cans (no plastic liner)



Aluminum

cans, lids, pots, pans, cookie sheets, pet food cans (no plastic liner)

Recycling No-Nos

Please do not include these with your recyclables:

- No Plastic bags - Please check with your local grocery stores to see if they collect plastic bags for recycling.
- No Polystyrene products (Styrofoam®)
- No Pet food cans or bags
- No Ice cream cartons
- No Waxy/paper milk cartons
- No Aerosol cans
- No Juice boxes or bags
- No Garbage or yard waste
- No Garden hoses
- No Window blinds
- No Tarps
- No Bedding or linens
- No Carpeting or rugs
- No Construction materials
- No Tin foil or foil baking pans
- No Plastic chairs
- No Residential Medical Waste
- No Bubble Wrap
- No Food Waste

- No Propane Tanks
- No Plastic or metal hangers