



OF SAN RAMON

# AVOID WISHCYCLING

Make sure everything you put into the Blue **Recyclables** cart/bin is recyclable. Non-recyclable materials cause contamination, can damage sorting machinery, and result in recyclables in the landfill.

Listed below are some of the common items that contaminate the recyclables stream.

**SINGLE PIECES OF SHRINK WRAP, PLASTIC FILM & BAGS = GARBAGE**



**PLEASE NOTE:**

**BAG-IN-BAG PROGRAM**

Bagged plastic bags & film can go in the **RECYCLABLES** cart.

- Place multiple bags/film plastic into one bag & tie off
- No single bags/film allowed
- Keep all other non-film plastic items loose

**CEREAL BAGS & LINERS = GARBAGE**



Try buying cereal in bulk to avoid excessive packaging.

**ONLINE RETAILER SHIPPING BAGS = GARBAGE**



Reuse when possible!

**SNACK PACKAGING & WRAPPERS = GARBAGE**



**STYROFOAM® = GARBAGE**

Contain multiple pieces in a single bag for collection. Avoid products with excessive and/or non-recyclable packaging.

**BUBBLE WRAP = GARBAGE**



Reuse whenever possible or choose environmentally friendly packaging options.

**PET WASTE = GARBAGE**



**PERSONAL HYGIENE ITEMS/ DIAPERS = GARBAGE**



**PLASTIC PLATES, CUPS & UTENSILS = GARBAGE**



Provide reusable options. Keep reusable cutlery with you to use when needed.

**CDS, DVDS & VHS TAPES = GARBAGE**



If undamaged, try donating to a resale shop or charity before disposing.

**DISHES, DRINKING GLASSES, MIRROR & WINDOW GLASS = GARBAGE**



**FOOD-SOILED PAPER PLATES, NAPKINS, TOWELS & CUPS = ORGANICS**



**WHEN IN DOUBT...FIND OUT!  
CONTACT US:**

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## Proper Sorting Makes a Difference!

*The most efficient sorting starts with you.*

**JUST SAY “NO” TO CONTAMINANTS!** Garbage, Food Scraps and Yard Trimmings **DO NOT** belong in the blue **RECYCLABLES** carts and/or bins.

**MAINTAIN A CLEAN STREAM!** Make sure recyclable plastic, metal and glass food containers are empty and clean before placing them in the blue **RECYCLABLES** carts and/or bins.

**FLATTEN IT!** Corrugated cardboard and paper boxes should be flattened and large pieces cut to 2' x 3' or smaller. Flatten plastic bottles, then put the lid on the bottle. This maximizes space in the containers and prevents litter.



## Reduce, Reuse and Repair Before You Recycle!

*Small changes in your purchasing habits and daily routine can make a big impact in reducing garbage and achieving zero waste!*

### REPAIR INSTEAD OF PURCHASE

- Before you replace an item, see if it can be repaired.
- If you do purchase something new, find the highest quality/longest lasting and most durable option possible.



### OPT FOR USED PRODUCTS

- Reuse what you already have.
- Purchase a “gently used” item from a consignment, resale or thrift shop.
- Browse resale/donation websites.
- Share/trade items with friends and neighbors.

### CHOOSE REUSABLES

- Shop with reusable bags and totes  
*(remember to wash your reusable bags occasionally)*
- Bring your travel mug to the coffee shop.
- Carry a reusable water bottle with you.
- Avoid single-serve and single-use items.



## Did You Know?

**40% of the material in the blue recyclables cart or bin is paper.**

Reduce paper waste by stopping unwanted mail.

- Remove your address from direct mail registries at: [www.directmail.com/mail\\_preference/](http://www.directmail.com/mail_preference/).
- Discontinue unwanted catalogs at: [www.CatalogChoice.org](http://www.CatalogChoice.org).
- Prevent automatic phonebook deliveries at: [www.YellowPagesOptOut.com](http://www.YellowPagesOptOut.com).



**Remember to:  
REDUCE, REUSE,  
ROT & RECYCLE!**